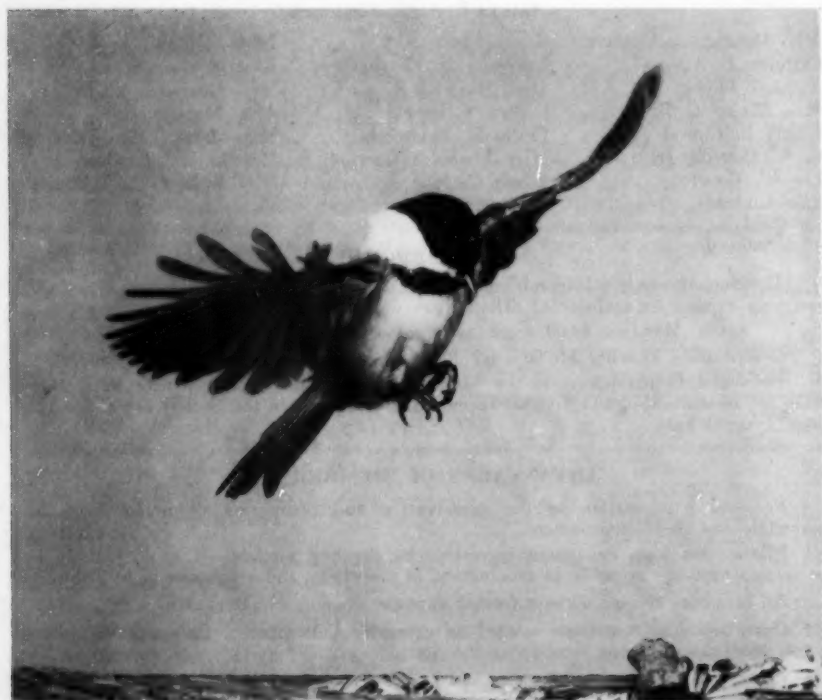


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*The*  
**BULLETIN**  
*of the*  
**MASSACHUSETTS**  
**AUDUBON SOCIETY**



MARCH, 1954

VOLUME XXXVIII

NUMBER 3

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# MASSACHUSETTS AUDUBON SOCIETY

FOUNDED 1896

INCORPORATED 1914

## FOR THE PROTECTION OF WILD BIRDS AND MAMMALS

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OF THE

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Cover Illustration, BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE COMING FOR SUNFLOWER SEEDS, G. Blake Johnson

## The President's Page



The chairman of an important department of Harvard University, before his retirement age was reached, had built for himself a house on land which he owned overlooking First Connecticut Lake, accessible from Pittsburg, N. H.

Here, some fifteen years ago, he began to feed the wild birds, especially in winter; and nobody around was sympathetic to his effort — on the contrary, they made fun of it. Some persons appeared to think he was trying to bait the little birds so that he could later kill them and eat them in potpie; others wagged their heads knowingly as if to suggest that a softening of the brain was probably in progress. But latterly, he tells me, there has come an amazing change, and now "everybody feeds the birds in winter" and keeps records of their first appearance and last disappearance. And he has been called in to explain how a rosy White-winged Crossbill differs from a brick-colored Red Crossbill, and how to distinguish the Siskin from the winter Goldfinch. Now he is looked upon as a "Wise Man" or a "Pundit of Birds."

So in the remoter parts of New England the Cause of Conservation goes forward! Even in those distant parts adjacent to the former "Indian Stream Republic" members of the Audubon Society of New Hampshire can be located. This sister Society of ours is making good progress under our old friend Tudor Richards, formerly of Harvard University. We wish it and every other Audubon Society good fortune, for they all do good work. May observation of birds and the care of birds multiply! And let nobody be cruel to them! Let the domestic cat be belled or otherwise restrained. And let not the crotched stick become linked to the straps of a slingshot!

Robert L. L. L.



## March Birding In Sunny Arizona

BY CATHERINE W. REED



ELIOT F. PORTER FROM NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

### The Eccentric Roadrunner Nests among the Cactus Spines

In February of 1953 I went to Arizona to visit my sisters. From March 1 to 8 we were in the Tucson desert at the foot of the Santa Catalina Mountains living in a trailer. Here the desert plants consisted chiefly of the giant cactus, cholla, palo verde, ocotillo, prickly-pear cactus and bur sage. The bird I first became aware of was the Palmer's Thrasher. One might hear as many as three or four singing at the same time in the desert. Its song is sweeter than the Brown Thrasher's. I watched the construction of a nest of sticks in a cholla, and at a later date saw the parents carrying food.

The Cactus Wren was ubiquitous. Its song is not musical and reminded me of nothing more melodious than coins rattling in a penny bank. I found this species also nesting in a cholla. A pair of Desert Sparrows came regularly to bathe in a bird bath. I saw the Road-runner most frequently when driving along in the car. At such times I thought it a particularly astute bird, for it seemed always to pause at the edge of the road and to look up and down the highway before sprinting across. Then I could not refrain from cheering, it is such a grand sprinter! It always strikes me, too, as a very angular bird. Its raised tail makes abrupt angles with the body, the running legs cut the arcs of other angles in the dust or air, its neck and topknot make still other angles. I thought, "Let all who prate of Beauty hold their peace . . . the while they stare." I never saw a dead Road-runner on the highway.

The Arizona Verdins were charming sprites with a pretty song. I saw them usually in the paloverde trees. They pecked at an orange, resinous-looking substance at the knots in the paloverde. I could locate the Gambel's Quail by their call note, which could be heard for some distance and which had a plaintive quality. One morning I saw a Quail sitting in a paloverde tree. As it gave the call, it lifted its beak skyward, then drew it sharply down. Sometimes the Quail carries the black plume horizontally forward so that the end falls below the beak.

I do not think the Gila Woodpecker as handsome as the Golden-fronted Woodpecker, but the orange-red patch on the head may shine like a splendid crown. The Mearns's Gilded Flicker had all the allure of a species quite different from our Northern Flicker, chiefly, I thought, because of the desert habitat. Early one morning I took a long walk from the trailer, and beneath a mesa I saw flock after flock of Brewer's Sparrows pass by. They were in full song (a canarylike song) in a meadow of cholla cactus which was in bloom, the drooping chains being tipped with yellow blossoms. Stepping into that cholla meadow was like entering a shop full of singing canaries.

On March 9 we started for Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument in the southwestern corner of Arizona. Passing through the grasslands near the Santa Rita Mountains, I saw a number of small groups of White-necked Ravens. One's eye is attracted to them because they look like shaggy Crows. We spent the night at Ajo. Leaving the town early in the morning, I heard the Western Meadowlark singing. Ten miles outside of Ajo we came to a dry stream bed. Here among the paloverdes I counted eight Phainopeplas. The males seemed to be proclaiming their territories. They mounted up in song with fluttering wings, climbing straight up the air as a butterfly climbs. Their song reminded me somewhat of a Goldfinch's song. Here, too, singing, was the Western Mockingbird. Not long after entering Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument I saw a Harris's Hawk perched in a tree. This wonderful black hawk allowed me to walk very close, so that I noted the white rump, the white band on the end of the tail, and the chestnut on the shoulders.

We spent March 10 to 12 at Dripping Springs. This is twenty-one miles from the ranger's office in Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument, which is a mile or two from Lukeville where one crosses into Mexico. There are two springs here, one at the base of the high yellow crags, and the other halfway to the summit. From the cliffs, the desert sloped in long slanting lines down to a valley. The large desert plants here consisted chiefly of the giant cactus, cholla, teddybear cholla, and creosotebushes. These last were in bloom, their small yellow blossoms giving off a spicy fragrance. The wildflowers were beautiful! There were golden desert poppies, blue lupine, brittlebush, which grows about a foot high and has salmon-colored blossoms, owllover, a rich magenta-colored flower which, according to the flower book, grew more spectacularly at Dripping Springs than anywhere else in Arizona, and many other flowers. Walking away from the highway over the desert, I found the pebbly soil in places covered with a carpet of miniature blooms, white, blue, yellow, purple, forming a flower mosaic so exquisite one hated to step on it.

The House Finches were the first birds observed here because there were so many of them. They were bounding over the chollas and their singing was marvelous. I saw one male and three females perched in the top of a single cactus. He appeared to be serenading them with a broadside of fiery toreador song. The Canyon Wren, however, is the bird which lingers most fondly in my memory. No bird, I believe, could more perfectly complement its niche in



ELIOT F. PORTER FROM NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

**A Female Phainopepla or "Silky Flycatcher" at its Nest**

nature than the Canyon Wren, singing from high up on the canyon walls from whence the cascading notes tinkle down. I listened to one each evening singing its after-sunset song before flying into a hole in the rocks for the night. Could any prayer be sweeter!

My introduction to the Costa's Hummingbird is one I shall not forget. I thought it the Costa's for two reasons. First because of the pure amethyst of its head and neck, and secondly, because of the sound it made when it zoomed. Always in that country, consciously or subconsciously, in one's mind is the thought of rattlesnakes. Two years ago, in Texas, Mrs. Connie Hagar made a diamondback rattlesnake rattle its tail for me so that I would recognize the sound. So when I heard a sudden, loud whirring sizzle, I side-stepped "high, wide and handsome" around that creosotebush, but it was just a Costa's Hummingbird.

Next to come to the odorous creosotebushes was an Arizona Blue-throated Hummingbird. I observed this with a young man and his wife, both bird enthusiasts. We noted the heavenly blue of the throat, the distinctive white markings on the side of the head of the male, and the white spots on the tail. Then my attention was attracted to a small flock of Green-backed Goldfinches. A pair of American Ravens croaked about the tops of the ocher crags. Later I saw these Ravens in every canyon we visited. I would say Arizona is full of Ravens! Driving out from Dripping Springs I saw two Fuertes' Red-tailed

Hawks. One was perched on a saguaro and was very tame, allowing a close approach. The streakings on the lower breast were faint, the tail was orange-red, the nape and top of the head almost golden.

From Dripping Springs we returned to Tucson. March 20 found us at the Callababus Picnic Grounds on Ruby Road. These picnic grounds are situated in a grassy valley surrounded by hills. The Santa Rita Mountains could be seen in the distance. Large oak trees grew in the parklike area, with scattered clumps of Spanishdaggers, which were very palmlike in appearance. There was beargrass, which looked like yucca, only the grassy blades were very fine, and the plant has several flower stalks instead of one as does the yucca. My surprise was considerable when the first bird seen here proved to be the (Rocky Mountain) White-breasted Nuthatch, and I was still more surprised when the next bird call heard was the chickadee call! This came from a Bridled Titmouse. This Titmouse, with its curious face-markings, gives one more of a thrill than the Black-crested Titmouse which I have seen in the Chisos Mountains. Bewick's (Baird's) Wren was next listed. Later I found this wren common in all the canyons we visited. Soon a flock of Arizona Jays swooped down through the picnic grounds. One has to see this jay in good light to see the really heavenly misty blue of its back.

Walking along a ridge at the top of the hills, I saw a brown-backed bird, with conspicuous black and white barrings beneath, fly ahead of me into the live oak trees. I could not follow because of a fence. It was the only glimpse of the Arizona Woodpecker which I had. While preparing supper with my sister, a great commotion drew me outside, where I beheld three splendiferous Mearns's Acorn Woodpeckers chasing each other about. I was about to re-enter the trailer when a harsh squeal overhead arrested me, and there in the live oak above was a female Williamson's Sapsucker. She flew to another oak and I had plenty of time to observe the zebra back, contrasting with the yellow belly, the brown head, and the white rump. She was a lovely creature and I felt proud of this identification.

March 21 we went on a buying spree in Nogales in Mexico. On the return trip, in the willows by a small lake near the Tumacacori Mission, I saw a Great-tailed Grackle. On March 22 we moved six miles beyond Callababus to Pina Blanca Canyon, where we stayed a week. Here we were greeted by the Vermilion Flycatcher and his mate. It was wonderful to watch them and to feel intimate with this lovely bird. Flocks of Red-backed Juncos with the dark eye, *Junco phaeonotus dorsalis*, were in the canyon. On the ground they are very colorful. A pair of Western Bluebirds was nesting here, and I saw daily a pair of Canyon Towhees. One night as we sat enjoying the cool of approaching evening, an Audubon's Warbler flitted by.

March 22 we spent visiting the town of Ruby, near the Mexican border. During World War I, Ruby was a booming town. Five metals were extracted from it; gold, silver, copper, lead and zinc. Now the town is deserted, but it is a favorite picnic place because of its little lake. Here I found the Say's Phoebe and Cassin's Kingbird. Over the lake were flying two lovely Violet-green Swallows. Among the willows was a Yellow Warbler and a Ruby-crowned Kinglet; in the tule marsh was a female Yellow-headed Blackbird, five Coots, and a Florida Gallinule.

On March 23 we went to Walker Canyon behind 61 Ranch on Ruby Road. The walls of the canyon were steep and heavily wooded. A nice stream flowed through it. I had been told that the Coppery-tailed Trogon could be seen here.

I did not find the Trogon but was not too disappointed because I have seen it in Mexico. However, I did find two Painted Redstarts chasing about in the trees. Coming out of the canyon I met a gentle pair of Arizona Pyrrhuloxias.

March 28 found us at Sedona, situated in Oak Creek Canyon in the central part of Arizona, south of Flagstaff. The rich red sandstone mountains around Sedona are most scenic. A rushing stream flows through the canyon. Back from the stream was an apple orchard in bloom and the land was cultivated. They say the Easterner seeing a Townsend's Solitaire for the first time is apt to have a rare time identifying it. No one could have been more dumb than I! Anyway, my attention was arrested when I saw two gray-looking birds under the dappled shade of the trees along the stream. They flew to the ground and ran along as a Veery does, but they were not thrushes. Then one alighted in a bush near me and I noted the white outer part of the tail feathers and the white eye-ring. It was not a Cassin's Kingbird. Next, one flew to the top of a tree from which it sallied out like an Olive-sided Flycatcher, but, heavenly day, it couldn't be that! Finally one alighted on a bush three feet in front of me and sat there, with its back toward me showing the brownish bar and brownish edging to the feathers on the wings. Still I gaped! Well, I had not anticipated in any way seeing a Solitaire in Arizona! I partially made up for my stupidity with the Solitaire by a quick identification of a Black Phoebe which I saw right afterwards, sitting on a fence, bobbing its tail. Along the stream I found five Lucy's Warblers and several Audubon's Warblers; both species were singing. And there were House Finches, and one finch with a rich loud song and red extending all down the breast which I thought might be a Cassin's Purple Finch. Also, there were many Brewer's Sparrows singing. Oak Creek Canyon was full of song that morning. On the way back to Tucson we decided to drive along the Apache Trail, where I noted several Rock Wrens and heard them sing.

On March 30 and 31 we were at Molina Basin on Mt. Lemmon. The most gorgeous surprise was to find a pair of Scott's Orioles and one male Hooded Oriole in the same oak tree snatching at the drooping catkins. A gnatcatcher song led me to hope for the Plumbeous Gnatcatcher even before I saw it. The Spotted Towhee and Rufous-crowned Sparrow were not new birds to me, but the Black-throated Gray Warbler was a new bird for my life list.

I like to remember the reiterated call of the Poor-will, coming each night at dusk from the mountain slope above us, as the last of my bird experiences in Arizona.

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### Watch For and Report Wing-Marks

In accordance with the plan authorized by the Fish and Wildlife Service, certain bird-banding stations in the northern part of the winter range of the Evening Grosbeak are equipped to color-mark the right wings of birds of this species with a circle, up until March 15. Colors have been assigned as follows: YELLOW, Hoyt, Etna, N. Y.; RED, Cook, Berlin, N. H.; GREEN, Fitzgerald, Amsterdam, N. Y.; BLUE, Ramsdell, Lewiston, Me., and Morse, Lisbon, Me.; BLACK, Brooks, Concord, Mass., Reed, Lexington, Mass., Blake, Lincoln, Mass., Stewart, Burlington, Mass. As we are anxious to trace the movements of wing-marked birds, it is hoped that all observers will note carefully the color marks and sex of birds; if a bird has been taken at more than one marking station it will carry more than one wing-mark, and the order of the marks should be noted.



## A Summary of January Birds

BY RUTH P. EMERY

There has been a definite lack of winter finches this year, such as the Crossbills, Evening and Pine Grosbeaks, Pine Siskins, and Redpolls. Toward the latter part of January, however, reports of Evening Grosbeaks began coming in from scattered areas, mostly of two or three birds that came to feeders for a day or two and then disappeared. One flock of 40 was reported from Topsfield and another good-sized flock was observed in Lincoln. One or two flocks of Redpolls were also reported at the end of the month, but only one flock of Red Crossbills was seen (25, in Worthington), and only one or two White-winged Crossbills were heard, at Crooked Pond in Boxford.

Those of us who keep yearly lists of birds seen have achieved rather respectable totals because of stragglers rather than the normally expected winter visitors. These stragglers have been reported from many scattered localities after the brief spells of cold and stormy weather. Phoebees were observed in Middleboro, Needham, and Ipswich; 9 Carolina Wrens reported during January; 5 Mockingbirds, one in Newburyport at the same place where one has been seen for the last three or four winters; Brown Thrashers visited feeders in three different places; Hermit Thrushes present in 22 different localities; 1 Orange-crowned Warbler was seen at Arcadia Sanctuary; both Western Palm and Yellow Palm Warblers were reported; 8 Yellow-breasted Chats; and Baltimore Orioles from 13 different locations; a male Rose-breasted Grosbeak in Grafton, with a Cardinal at the same feeder; 4 other Cardinals were reported, and still another one was present in Woodstock, Vermont, January 7 to 16; 7 Dickcissels; 12 Red-eyed Towhees throughout the month; a Chipping Sparrow at a feeder in Osterville until January 20; 3 White-crowned Sparrows in Orleans, and one in Gardner until January 23; 13 Fox Sparrows were also reported throughout the month.

Forty-eight Snowy Owls have been reported in Massachusetts, most of them along the coast. A Shoveller, Canvas-back, and Hooded Mergansers may be seen at Muddy River, Boston.

A Western Tanager was reported from Bucksport, Maine, where it was seen from January 1 to 13 and then was picked up dead under the feeder.

In the Cape Ann area, Alcids have been very scarce all winter. All three white-winged gulls were present, 3 to 4 Snowy Owls, 4 Barrow's Golden-eyes, a female Harlequin Duck, but very few Eiders. Members on the Audubon Field Trip to Cape Ann on January 24 were fortunate to see a Western Tanager at a feeder in West Gloucester and ended their trip by watching a Snowy Owl eating a Red-breasted Merganser. Our Field Trip which covered the Newburyport-Plum Island area the same day saw a Blue Goose on the Parker River Refuge, 6 Bald Eagles, all three white-winged gulls, 9 Snowy Owls, a Northern Shrike, and a Dickcissel. Both busses went to the Ipswich River Wildlife Sanctuary at the end of the day, enjoyed hot coffee and doughnuts, and were pleased to find, after making up their lists, that a total of 62 species had been seen.

A European Black-headed Gull has been seen several times at Newburyport, and a European Tufted Duck was found at Chain Bridge in Newburyport by Professor Samuel A. Eliot on January 24, and the bird was still present in early February.



## The Life Cycle of the Cecropia

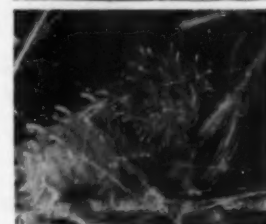
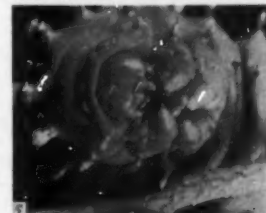
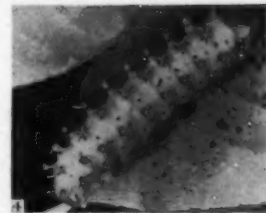
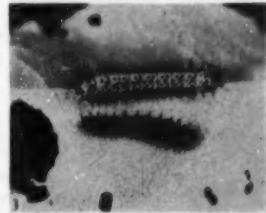
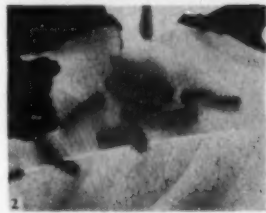
By CHARLES WALCOTT

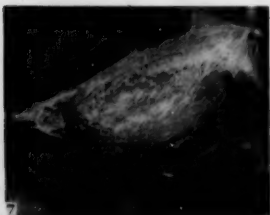
Photographs by  
Benjamin Dane and Charles Walcott

The Cecropia Moth, *Platysamia cecropia*, is one of the largest and most beautiful of North American night-flying Lepidoptera. Though a fairly common insect, it never becomes a serious pest. The big caterpillars are easily found and identified, and the streamline brown cocoons are conspicuous in the winter, so the Cecropia is an excellent subject for study and photography.

The eggs of the Cecropia are generally laid in late June or early July. The large, bulky female, her abdomen heavy with two hundred to three hundred eggs, flies laboriously from bush to bush, depositing them in groups of four to six eggs on twigs and the undersides of the leaves of the chosen food-plant (see Fig. 1). Only six eggs to a tree may not sound like many, but this is actually in the best interests, not only of the tree, which might otherwise be seriously harmed by defoliation, but also of the young caterpillars, each of which will then have plenty of food without being overcrowded.

After about ten days to two weeks in the warm sun, the young caterpillar gnaws its way out of the shell and immediately sets about its lifelong task of getting enough to eat (see Fig. 2, larvae in the first instar stage, about 3 days old). This for a young caterpillar is quite an undertaking, for it has been estimated that the young Cecropia within forty-eight hours after hatching consumes over 84,000 times its own weight in leaves. After doing nothing but eating and resting for five days, the caterpillar has become well-filled; in fact, it is literally bursting out of its skin. For, unlike most other animals, a caterpillar's skin does not grow with him; he has to get a new one (see Fig. 3, two stages of growth of caterpillar). This process of "moulting," as it is called, occurs five times in the Cecropia's life, and each time it gets a suit of a different color, first black, then yellow, and finally a magnificent suit of greenish-blue with orange and red spines called "tubercles," (see Fig. 4, fourth stage, or instar). These, though they may appear menacing to a hungry bird, are really harmless, but the Cecropia's close relative the Io





Moth, *Automeris io*, has a caterpillar with poisonous spines. Even with this formidable array of spines, a great many *Cecropias* are eaten by birds, which no doubt find them a delicious mouthful, with perhaps enough left over to feed the family, too.

The caterpillar continues to be a ravenous feeder, because it has to prepare for a long winter and for its future life as a moth, for, unlike most moths, the members of the Saturniid family, to which the *Cecropia* belongs, never feed during their adult life (see Fig. 5, head and true legs during fifth instar).

As the summer comes to an end, the four-inch-long caterpillar moves restlessly about seeking a place to spin the cocoon in which it will spend the winter. Perhaps a convenient fork in the bush it is on is selected; the *Cecropia* then shows that it is a true member of the Silkworm family by spinning a strand of the purest white silk, with which it pulls the leaves around itself and then proceeds to spin its silken case (see Fig. 6). The moisture in the air, however, soon changes the glistening white cocoon to a dull brown. Unfortunately, the silk of the *Cecropia* is of no commercial value, because the strands are too short and broken (see Fig. 7).

The winter or early spring is the ideal time to look for these large brown cocoons. The best places to look are in bushy or overgrown fields and along country roadsides, where they may be found on every imaginable kind of shrub, but, generally speaking, not more than five feet off the ground. If the cocoons are kept in a cage outside the house, the moths will emerge in late June, unless parasites get to them first.

The *Cecropia* has several parasites which live on it. They lay their eggs inside the caterpillar, where they hatch into minute grubs which literally consume the caterpillar from inside out. They are, by instinct, careful not to kill their host before it spins its cocoon, as the parasites also want a place to pupate. This may seem cruel, but it is doubtful if the caterpillars feel any sensations of pain from the tiny grubs, "gnawing at their innards," and if each of the two or three hundred eggs laid by a single *Cecropia* developed into a full-grown caterpillar, in a few generations we should be overrun. The parasites are an important agent in maintaining the balance of nature.

Two days are spent in making the cocoon. Two solid days of spinning! Who would not want to rest after such an ordeal! But before the *Cecropia* can take its well-earned respite one more change occurs. Hidden from prying eyes inside the cocoon, the caterpillar sheds its skin for the last time, to become a beautiful pea-green "pupa" (see Fig. 8, cocoon cut open), which soon fades to a dark brown, in which form it will pass the winter. At this point a most remarkable thing has taken place; the rapid growth and development which has been going on inside the caterpillar has suddenly come to a halt (see Fig. 9). After this final "pupal moult," the giant insect has fallen into a deep sleep, which can only be terminated after an exposure to the cold of winter and then the returning warmth of spring. After this period of dormancy, or "diapause" as it is called, ends in the spring, it takes only twenty-one days for the adult moth to develop and emerge from the cocoon.

The adult *Cecropia* as it emerges from the cocoon (see Fig. 10, male *Cecropia* beginning emergence) a wet mass of wings and legs looking thoroughly bedraggled, bears little resemblance to the handsome insect commonly found about country street lights and porch lights. After a few minutes of scrambling about to get into a comfortable position, the newly emerged moth undergoes a rapid change (see Fig. 11). The wings begin to expand as blood is pumped into them. After about an hour, they are fully expanded and begin to harden, and after a few more hours of gentle exercising the moth is finally able to fly (see Fig. 12).

Since the moth pictured here is a male, it will wait until well after dark before flying off in search of a mate. This flight has been a matter of great interest to entomologists for many years. How can a male moth in the darkest part of the night locate a female as far distant as three miles? The answer appears to be that the female gives off an odor which is detected by the male with his large featherlike antennae, the organ of smell in the adult moth. All the male has to do, therefore, is to fly up this "beam of odor" to the female. After spending the next day together, the male flies off in search of another mate, while the female goes about her serious business of egg laying on a suitable food-plant, and after three days of this she flutters helplessly to the ground to die, the life cycle completed.

### News of Bird Clubs

At the annual meeting of the **HOFFMANN BIRD CLUB** of Pittsfield on April 1, an illustrated talk, "Cape Breton Island and its Birds," will be presented by Elmore J. Fitz.

The **ALLEN BIRD CLUB** of Springfield has scheduled the National Audubon screen tour lecture "South to Siesta Land" for their March 2 meeting, and "Nature's Half Acre," a Walt Disney production, for their meeting on March 22. Field trips for the month include a trip to Cromwell and Wethersfield, Connecticut, on March 13; to Ware River Valley on March 20; and to Evergreen Sanctuary at Berlin, Connecticut, on March 27, when the club will be the guests of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Gstell.

The **HARTFORD BIRD STUDY CLUB**, at its meeting on March 9, will enjoy color movies of the Audubon Nature Camps in Maine, Connecticut, and California. At the March 23 meeting Cleveland P. Grant will present "Adventure in Color with American Birds and Big Game." Five Saturday field trips during the month will cover South Windsor on the 6th; Glastonbury Meadows and Cromwell Meadows on the 13th; Portland Meadows on the 20th; and The Arboretum on the 27th.

The **FORBUSH BIRD CLUB** of Worcester is co-sponsor with the Massachusetts Audubon Society of the color film "Bonaventure Diary," to be presented by Robert Hermes at the Sinclair Bird Festival, at Horticultural Hall, Worcester, on Thursday evening, March 25.

The **STANTON BIRD CLUB GARDENERS**, Lewiston-Auburn, Maine, will enjoy a program including a lecture and demonstration of flower arrangements by Mr. Wallace Jahn, and kodachrome pictures by Mr. William A. Greenleaf at their regular meeting on March 15.

### Audubon Round the Year

Annual Report of C. Russell Mason, Executive Director of the Massachusetts Audubon Society. Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Society, January 23, 1954.

Although many of the Audubon activities are carried on throughout the year and become more or less routine, some are decidedly seasonal, and new projects are added from time to time. For example, our monthly field trips in the Boston area, illustrated staff lectures throughout the State, and the publication of the *Bulletin* and *Records of New England Birds* we have come to look upon as routine matters. We also welcome the opportunity to co-operate at all times — either through attendance at meetings or membership on their boards — with the eighteen organizations comprising the Massachusetts Conservation Council, with youth groups like the Camp Fire Girls, Children's Museum, and United Community Services, and with the Northeastern Bird-Banding Association and other organizations. It is difficult for anyone not following the program from the inside to appreciate its scope and its influence for conservation. I should like, therefore, today to take you with me on a month by month review of the Audubon program through the year 1953.

January brought no letup after the rush of the holiday season. It was the start of a new and active year about which we could make resolutions. Some members might have wished us to carry on an even greater program without running a greater deficit; others might have proposed additional field notes for the *Bulletin*; still a third group might have suggested that we find additional sanctuaries. At any rate, January started a new volume of the *Bulletin*, the beginning of its thirty-seventh year, and this publication calls for all the good material we can muster to keep it at the high level at which Roger Peterson placed it when he described it as "the best magazine of its kind in the country." And the *Records of New England Birds* started its eighth year, with the number of contributors tripled. Bird observations in January, 1953, featured many winter finches, as well as lingering groups that might have been spending the winter in the South, and an invasion of western birds. This first month of the year was climaxed with our annual meeting at Horticultural Hall, which was very much overcrowded, necessitating our moving this year to larger quarters. This meeting featured the vice-presidents of the Society and their accomplishments, and was highlighted by the visit of Sir Shane Leslie, of Ireland. The first month of the year, and every month, brings from all parts of the country inquiries about birds and where to see them in Massachusetts, and this service which we render is constantly growing. And of course during the winter months we get many questions as to how and what to feed the birds. And even this early in the year we are thinking ahead about the summer program and planning for it. Wise and unwise proposals are brought before the State Legislature to ponder over, such as a bounty on rattlesnakes proposed to help the tourist business in the Berkshires, and — of far more serious consideration — the measure for which conservationists have been fighting for the past decade, to take the Department of Conservation out of politics, which was finally accomplished this year when Governor Herter signed the bill, passed by the General Court, providing for a Department of Natural Resources under an appointed unpaid Board which would select its executive officer. The first field trip of the year, the day after the annual meeting, introduced a new plan of dividing the party into two groups, one visiting Cape Ann and the other Newburyport, and both groups meeting in the late afternoon at Ipswich River Sanctuary for a discussion of results. Also, in January, Moose Hill, our oldest sanctuary, started the year with an early meeting of its advisory committee.

*February* ushered in the first programs of the Audubon Nature Theatre, with Bert Harwell, of California, and Richard Borden, of Concord. The Society participated in the meeting of the New England Camping Association; found a new teacher for the Connecticut Valley school classes; and discussed the expansion of their conservation education program in the schools with the Rhode Island Audubon Society. The sanctuaries continue active every month, Alvah Sanborn even reporting eight Beavers in sight at one time at Pleasant Valley in February. A trip to Falmouth revealed Bullock's Orioles at the Collins feeding Station, the discovery later confirmed by Blake Johnson's photography, by banding, and by measurement, as submitted to Dr. George M. Sutton, of the University of Oklahoma, an authority on the Oriole. This was reported in the June *Bulletin*. Courses in bird identification and in presentation of nature material to children, given at Audubon House, were well-attended, as were other courses conducted at Ipswich River Sanctuary, Arcadia, and the Berkshire Museum.

During *March* the Boston Flower Show gave us opportunity to meet many members who visit Boston at that time. The Audubon Nature Theatre continued in a dozen cities and towns, with Karl Maslowski and Dick Bird. Radio broadcasts and newspaper feature articles reflected the excellent releases of our public relations department and the growing interest of the public in conservation news. The various facets of our program are so interlocked that the education, membership, and public relations committees of our Board met jointly in March and continued to do so throughout the year. Opportunity was offered the executive director to participate in a panel on conservation education at the National Wildlife Federation meeting in Washington, D.C., in March. At this time, also, our film "Audubon's America" was being shown in the British Isles and in Austria by Miss Katharine Tousey, of our teaching staff. Spring was on the way, and consequently the March field trip was scheduled for the Sudbury Valley.

In *April* we had a visit from Roger Peterson and James Fisher, of England, at the beginning of their 30,000-mile trip from Newfoundland to Mexico and Alaska, a portion of which you will have an opportunity to share next month, when Roger Peterson appears on our Audubon Nature Theatre program with "Wild America." A course in bird photography was given at Arcadia Sanctuary in April. And a trip this month to Cornell University at Ithaca by the executive director resulted in the developing of a new Mockingbird Record from our tape recordings, to be issued with the Cornell Series. Sampson's Island, in Cotuit Harbor, was accepted as the eighth current Audubon sanctuary, the gift of Harry H. Bailey. Eighty-five classes from the Worcester city schools, a total of 2500 boys and girls, started their April and May trek to Cook's Canyon Sanctuary, taxing the capacity of the Sanctuary and its staff. A reorganization of the Audubon staff in April brought a new head to the sales and service department, Miss Ivy LeMon.

*May* is, of course, the big month in the bird world. The Northeastern Bird-Banding Association opened the month with a field meeting at Arcadia Sanctuary. Audubon Week and Audubon Day introduced many people to bird watching through the hundred trips scheduled all over the State. There was Open House at all of our sanctuaries. Morning and noon walks were conducted in the Boston Public Garden. The Connecticut Valley Campout drew its usual enthusiastic group, and the shore bird field trip caught a horde of these birds on the way to their northern nesting grounds. In May the Covered Wagon was being scheduled for the Massachusetts Conservation



Council to make its usual visits to summer camps. Also in May, a drive for new members was launched successfully by Pleasant Valley Sanctuary. Most of the school classes conducted by the Audubon teachers were making visits to our sanctuaries in May.

With *June* the school classes ended, and an Audubon teachers conference followed immediately at Mt. Greylock, this being scheduled just prior to the Ninth Annual Berkshire Campout. Mr. and Mrs. David R. Miner assumed charge of Cook's Canyon Wildlife Sanctuary shortly before the opening of the Natural Science and Conservation Workshop for teachers and leaders, which had an enrollment of thirty-one. "The Ledges," the dining and recreation hall built in memory of Miss Florence Read, and the Dickinson Workshop, built through the generosity of Miss Grace Dickinson, of Worcester, were dedicated at Cook's Canyon in June. At Pleasant Valley, an Explorers Club was conducted for two weeks for a selected group of older boys who were former day campers. The Thumbnail Sketches of the Directors were concluded in the *June Bulletin*.

*July* is camping month. The Wildwood Nature Camp for boys and girls particularly interested in natural history had two sessions at Cook's Canyon, with a full enrollment. Five day camps for natural history were operated at our five sanctuaries where we have resident directors, the largest enrollment being at Moose Hill, where forty boys and girls at each session required three Audubon teachers and a few summer assistants. The Barn Restaurant at Pleasant Valley opened for the summer season, and the Trailside Museum at the Sanctuary featured a special exhibit of photographs by Torrey Jackson and David Tucker. The nesting season, as usual, brought numbers of injured birds to the various sanctuaries to be cared for. The wild flower garden at Moose Hill received special attention from Lawrence Newcomb, of Needham, who volunteered his services to develop this garden. Work with summer camps and recreation areas around Boston was assigned to two of our Audubon teachers.

In *August* the day camps and Wildwood Camp concluded their programs, giving opportunity to the educational staff for vacations. However, there was still the usual shore bird trip scheduled for mid-August, and the issuing of the *August Newsletter* to keep members up to date on summer activities. Much time is required also for the planning of the Cape Campout.

In early *September* the educational and sanctuary staffs gathered for their fall conference at Nickerson State Forest Park on the Cape, to prepare for a most active school year. It was necessary in September to add new teachers to the staff to take care of all the 450 classes scheduled for Massachusetts and Rhode Island, and we were fortunate in interesting three of our former teachers to return to the staff this year. The Cape Campout enrollment was double that of previous years, and in connection with this event I should like to give you the comment of a visiting naturalist. Said he: "From what I saw of your leaders and members on various occasions over the week end, I was terrifically impressed. Never have I seen such enthusiasm and morale and such a high degree of expert field work. It was really a privilege to be able to be present." Window displays at Audubon House and one at the Home Savings Bank on Tremont Street, Boston, were good examples of the effective work the Society is doing in this direction.

In *October* the school classes got under way, the autumn courses at Audubon House were starting, and the sanctuary directors held a special conference at Ipswich River Sanctuary. We began our series of Thumbnail Sketches of



Our Vice-Presidents in the *Bulletin*. The Nature Hours conducted at the Berkshire Museum with the co-operation of the Society attracted several hundred boys and girls. Additional land was purchased at Arcadia Sanctuary, to prevent encroachment of other building operations, to preserve the view of the mountains from Headquarters, and to furnish badly needed parking space. Trail-clearing parties and forest practice demonstrations were part of other sanctuary programs. At Pleasant Valley in October the Annual Covered Dish Supper filled the Barn Restaurant with members, and restoration of the old Ackroyd house at the Sanctuary, to provide living quarters for some of our teaching staff, was started. Bird photography received new impulse through the 3-D photography of G. Blake Johnson, with whom we were delighted to co-operate and whose pictures will be demonstrated here today. The Society lent its film "Audubon's America" to the State Department at Washington, so that Miss Katharine Tousey might show it to audiences in West Germany this month. The Holyoke school system, which had had the Audubon courses for several years, introduced a conservation and natural science course in the curriculum of all the lower grades and employed our Miss Mary Beitzel to take charge of this work. The Society was saddened in October by the passing of such stalwart conservationists as Francis H. Allen and Harris A. Reynolds, the former being chairman of our Board of Directors for many years, and both men were charter members of the Massachusetts Conservation Council.

In November a discussion of the budget with our Budget-Finance Committee and Board brought out the fact that our program had expanded five-fold in the past ten years. This month the Northeastern Bird-Banding Association voted to move its annual meeting from Cambridge to "The Ledges" at Cook's Canyon. A further program of co-operation with the Wild Flower Society was developed with our teaching staff. The collection of mounted birds, which has increased steadily over the years, was catalogued. Also, a start was made of indexing the *Bulletin* for the benefit of members. Fall migration ended at the sanctuaries as winter feeding started, although a feeding program is carried on throughout the year. The Massachusetts Conservation Council continued to meet at Audubon House each month, and Eric Cutler, of Westwood, was appointed by the Board as our representative on the Council.

December featured a Birds' Christmas Tree program, which received wide publicity throughout the State. In connection with the convention of the American Association for the Advancement of Science held in Boston this month, the Audubon staff and many members participated in the program of the science teaching societies. A revamping of field trip plans, in order to cover a broader program of natural history, was well tested in the field trip which our Society operated for the science teaching societies to the North Shore and augurs well for the success of similarly planned field trips in 1954. Through the generosity of members and friends in eastern Massachusetts, the Society acquired Marblehead Neck Sanctuary, fifteen acres of attractive woodland along the migratory flyway, with an endowment of ten thousand dollars for maintenance. With the acquisition of Francis H. Allen's ornithological library and gifts from friends of Mr. Allen, the Directors voted to establish the Francis H. Allen Reference Library at Audubon House, with branches at each of the sanctuaries, for use of the Audubon staff and those interested in research. Encouragement for our summer program was a grant of two thousand dollars from the Alden Foundation of Worcester for Wildwood scholarships, also an anonymous gift of three thousand dollars for the Ipswich River Sanctuary. At the close of the year, our membership enrollment was 7,200.

As I come to the close of this report, I would emphasize the ever-growing need for conservation education for both youth and adult. We must therefore expand our program to meet these needs. Audubon House, occupied now for ten years, is already bursting at the seams. We have not space enough to house our staff and carry on the work effectively, even with our five additional education centers at the sanctuaries. All our sanctuaries need larger endowments and greater facilities to accommodate the increasing number of visitors.

We have passed successfully through eras of protection of birds, and legislation necessary to that end, into a period when conservation education for young and old is our main objective. Indeed, education becomes increasingly important as expanding populations and industrial trends contract our wild lands and crowd our countryside with buildings. We have been able to accomplish through the years, and we can attain our objectives, only with the help of a continuing loyal, talented, and experienced staff, a Board of Directors and a group of vice-presidents who are keenly and actively interested, and our thousands of members who are willing to co-operate along the various avenues that are open to them in Audubon work. Many of our members have abilities and talents perhaps unknown to us. Here is an opportunity to invest in the future for yourself, your children, and your grandchildren. We should like to hear from any who would like in some way to contribute to the cause of conservation by joining in our activities. We look forward to an active, a pleasant, and a rewarding year ahead.

### **Feed the Wild Ducks**

A number of the ponds in eastern Massachusetts which are not wholly frozen over during the winter have become a haven for ducks, chiefly Blacks and Mallards, but with an occasional odd species, like a lingering Wood Duck, Pintail, Baldpate, and American Merganser. A female Shoveller has spent the winter in the pond near the Art Museum in Boston for the past three years.

Special attention has been called recently to the pond at Norumbega Park in Auburndale, which is under the jurisdiction of the Metropolitan District Commission and where the flock of ducks has built up to four hundred, with a few Canada Geese as welcome additions. While the commission has provided some food for these waterfowl, for several years past the main responsibility for their feeding has devolved upon Walter R. Koe, of West Newton, who has spent several hundred dollars annually to provide grain for these ducks. Through newspaper and radio appeals, Mr. Koe has been calling for help in the project this year, hoping that at least four hundred people might contribute a dollar apiece to aid in the feeding program. The response has been gratifying but still insufficient to meet the food bills, and an appeal has been sent by the Massachusetts Audubon Society to the Metropolitan District Commission to relieve Mr. Koe of the financial responsibility, in the hope that he would be willing to continue to give some time to this project.

There are several other important ponds in the area where ducks are being fed by local residents or by the towns concerned. Similar feeding programs in Oakland, California, and at Orlando, Florida, have become nationally known because of the visitors they attract to observe the great flocks of mixed species of ducks and geese which winter there.

It would seem most desirable to promote the feeding of these wild ducks at the various Massachusetts ponds, for, not only would it be the means of interesting more people in bird life, but it would attract many tourists to the towns where feeding was regularly carried on.

## Our New Sanctuary at Marblehead Neck

BY DOROTHY E. SNYDER



DOROTHY E. SNYDER

### A Wooded Path in Our Marblehead Sanctuary

The former Marblehead Neck post office bore the official name of Nane-pashemet — Indian name for the old Marble Harbor or Marble Necke. In 1629 the Reverend John Higginson (a clergyman, not a geologist) described the rocky headlands which line the shore thus: "Marble stone . . . we have great rocks of it, and a harbor hard by. Our plantation is from thence called Marble-Harbor."

Actually the rocks of the Neck are a jumbled mixture of metamorphics, with later inclusions and some older sedimentaries, so that someone has called it the "glory-hole of Essex County rocks." These igneous rocks, of the series known as the Lynn volcanics, rest directly upon Dedham granodiorite, which, like so many other rocks, crops up here. Along the shore, extending out from Tinkers Island, granite is found cutting across the slates, sandstones, and quartzites. Most of the bedrock of the Neck is a volcanic known as aporhyolite, a dark reddish-brown or purple rock composed largely of alkalic feldspar and quartz. Flow structure is common and finely developed in places.

However, the Neck is best known in geological circles because of a keratophyre which may be seen at low tide on the harbor side, at Bodens Point — the type occurrence of bostonite, which resembles trachyte, being a fine-grained whitish rock containing a few crystals of orthoclase.

Originally a heavily wooded island ("bee as it were a thicke wood"), the Neck is about a mile in length, half that in width, and contains, roughly, three hundred acres of land connected with the mainland by a sand bar awash at high tide. The trees were probably mainly oak and hickory, with some hemlock, pitch and white pine, chestnut, maple, and beech. The building of houses and ships drew heavily upon this supply of wood, so that as early as 1678 there were laws concerning its use.

The ancient highway to the Neck, a sand road often washed out by tide and storm, was laid out in 1670 through the Devereux farm. In the latter part of the seventeenth century the Neck was used principally for pasturage and fish-yards, where fish was dried on flakes. By 1835 Marblehead Neck was advertising that locations for summer cottages were equal to those at Nahant! However, in the decade between 1850 and 1860 most of the Neck was a farm; 240 acres of land being owned and farmed by Mr. Ephraim Brown.

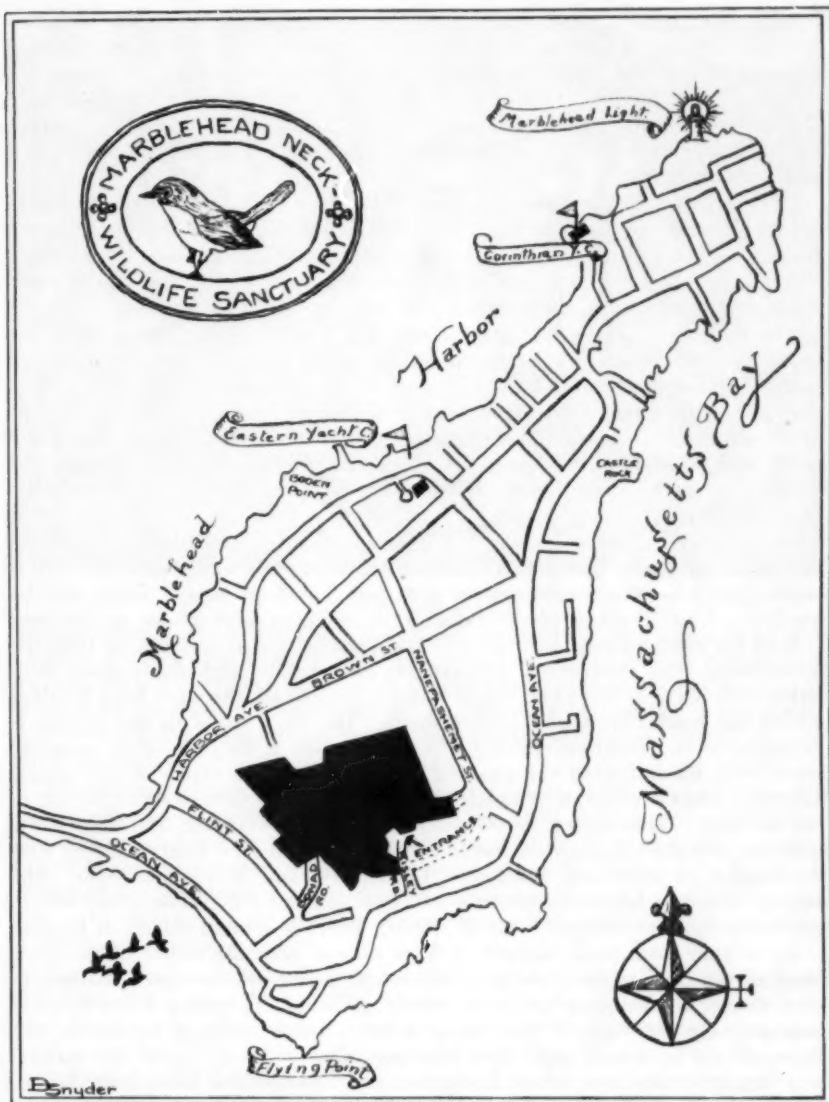
The first summer residents came from Nashua, N.H.; arriving in 1867, six families acquired land and built cottages on the harbor side. One of these men wrote, "It was no uncommon sight on a Sunday evening in 1860 to count between fifty and seventy-five dories on the Nashua shore." The Brown farm was sold in 1872 to a development company for over a quarter of a million dollars, but repossessed by the Brown heirs when the company failed. The delights of summering on the Neck were becoming better known, so that in a few years the shores were said to present the appearance of an army encampment, with hundreds of tents set up along the water.

The only mention of birds in early history is in 1854, when an inn, the Manataug House, advertised in the *People's Advocate* that "the Neck lands are the favorite resort of Plover and Curlew and afford sport for Gunners during the season;" a testimony to the disappearance of the "thicke wood" and its replacement by fields.

Until 1910 it was necessary for the inhabitants to use boats for reaching the mainland during high tides; the road to the Neck was passable for horse and buggy only part of the time. The present causeway was constructed then, and, battered by many a storm and hurricane, it was patched here and there until it was largely rebuilt in 1953.

With the addition of two well-known yacht clubs, the Corinthian and the Eastern Point, the Neck became a yachting center; houses were built along the entire shore line, and building gradually extended inland until, by 1952, there was only one naturally wild area left. Here a real estate company was negotiating for land to put up a large number of dwellings.

Since Essex County is on the Atlantic Coast Flyway, its outlying points have always had a concentration of birds during migration. Plum Island, Marblehead Neck, and Nahant are natural stopovers for passerine birds in spring and fall and, given certain weather conditions, are flooded with migrants resting and feeding before continuing their journeys. The Neck has never been as famed for its migrants as Plum Island and Nahant, but with the rapid building up of Nahant, birders (if not birds!) have visited it in increasing numbers in recent years.



It was Mrs. David Searle, of Marblehead, who has been observing birds almost daily on the Neck since 1947, who first suggested that the one unspoiled area be turned into a bird sanctuary. Her suggestion, made to Walter M. McKim, President of the Marblehead Neck Improvement Association, met with his instant approval, and for two years he worked untiringly, with the backing of the association, to make it a reality. Part of the land was donated and the rest purchased with money given by the association and some thirty-five private donors. Mr. McKim also raised an endowment of ten thousand dollars to insure the acceptance of this sanctuary by the Massachusetts Audu-



bon Society; indeed, most of the credit for its creation is due to Mr. McKim's energy, untiring work, and his skill in negotiation. The land, comprising between fifteen and sixteen acres (see map), was accepted by the Society in October, 1953, as the Marblehead Neck Wildlife Sanctuary, and a Sanctuary Advisory Committee was appointed, consisting of Walter M. McKim, Chairman; Mrs. John A. Burnham, Mrs. David H. Searle, Miss Dorothy E. Snyder, and John Whipple.

The entrance to the sanctuary is on Risley Road, off Ocean Avenue, where a parking area will be provided. It is also hoped that there will be sufficient funds to erect a suitable fence or wall blocking off other roads leading into the sanctuary, with a foot gate at this entrance from Risley Road. The sanctuary will be opened to the public in the summer of 1954.

In reality, this area has been a sanctuary for migrating land birds for untold years. They come by the hundreds when the wind is favorable, and many stay for days or weeks in this open wooded section which affords them shelter and abundant food. Increasingly, too, as it becomes better known the area will be a sanctuary for birders, who can wander through its lanes and paths with no disturbance from cars or steam shovels, and who will enjoy the walks, though the birds be few, and find the peace and quiet a welcome relief from birding in built-up areas.

Living only three miles away, I have spent much time there. The flora, as well as the birds it attracts, is interesting. There is a fine growth of devil's-walking-stick in the maple swamp area, no doubt an escape from near-by gardens. A small stand of the rather rare mountainmint grows on the west side of the alder swamp, and berry-bearing shrubs are abundant. In 1953 the winterberry, the viburnums, bittersweet, and deadly nightshade were well-laden with berries. Here you might watch a male Black-throated Blue Warbler eating the scarlet fruit of the nightshade. The wool grass in the swamp is picturesque and good cover for birds which move at its base, their progress noted only by following the swaying of the tan-colored stalks of this sedge. Edges of paths are apt to be lined with clethra, whose flowers scent the air in late summer. Winterberry, arrowwood, Tatarian honeysuckle, and elderberry, with the prevalent staghorn sumach, all provide good bird food, together with the tangles of wild rose, raspberry, blackberry, and Virginia creeper. The swamp area has luxurious growths of poisonsumach; the Chat often sits in such a bush, quite immune to its ill effects. There is a small colony of English oaks, escapes from trees planted on Neck estates, near the center of the area. Most of the smaller trees are gray birch and aspen, whose insect visitors, in turn, attract warblers and other insectivorous birds. There are a few fine old maples lining the edges of the swamp which provide lookouts for hawks, the Olive-sided Flycatcher, and other high-perching birds. North of the swamp is a dry, gravelly area where Longspur and Meadowlark have been found. Edging this is an abundant growth of goldenrod; in October its seeds attract both warblers and finches. With patience, an Orange-crowned Warbler or Indigo Bunting feeding below them may be coaxed into view.

Since birds tend to stay in the sanctuary area for a number of days, it follows that at least a few can be found here almost every day during migration, and especially during September and early October. The variety is good; the total list for the Sanctuary acres to date being 118 — practically all of these land birds.

One memorable May day, as a party of us entered the maple-alder swamp, out flew an adult Little Blue Heron in the soft blue plumage rarely seen in





ALAN D. CRUICKSHANK FROM NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

### Yellow-Breasted Chat

Massachusetts; here there are often Black-crowned Night Herons, and the Virginia and Sora Rails have been seen. On the tall old maples edging this low ground Duck, Pigeon, Red-tailed, Cooper's, or Sparrow Hawk may perch. Woodcocks are flushed from under the neighboring aspens, and great skeins of cormorants draw our eyes to the sky overhead, where an occasional Osprey also floats across.

Flycatchers frequent the sanctuary area spring and fall — never a year passes without our seeing all the species on the State check-list except the Arkansas Kingbird; there are not enough open fields to attract this species. Yellow-bellied Flycatchers perch low in small bushes by the edges of the lanes in September while one or two Olive-sided Flycatchers are seen silhouetted against the sky beside the swamp. About once a year we hear the *way-bee-o* of the Alder Flycatcher.

The undergrowth is well-suited to wrens; Winter and House Wrens stay here late, and a stray Long-billed Marsh Wren turns up almost yearly. In 1953 Mrs. Searle added to the Sanctuary list the Carolina Wren, found in a moist tangle which seems suitable for their breeding. We see all the thrushes frequently, usually feeding in the deep shade of the narrow lanes, but they are never as numerous here as in Nahant. Blue-gray Gnatcatchers turn up each fall, and there are good flights of both kinglets lispings through the small trees.

Among the vireos, the Warbling is seldom found, and the Yellow-throated not much more often; even the common Red-eyed seems not to be as abundant as formerly. The Philadelphia Vireo is found several times each fall; in the bright early morning sun of September 18, 1953, Mrs. Searle and I watched two of these birds feeding low on an alder within twenty feet of us. White-eyed Vireos come each fall; in 1953 one came out of the same clump of bushes on October 1, 2, and 8, and it, or another, was seen near by on October 15, 17, and 19.

With the exception of Prothonotary, Worm-eating, Cerulean, and Louisiana Water-Thrush, we have seen all the warblers on the check-list, plus two subspecies of Yellow Warblers and the Grinnell's Water-Thrush. A male Hooded Warbler popped up out of a damp tangle on August 11, 1953, and perched on *exactly* the same bush as one of these black and gold warblers did on September 15 of the previous year. An unusually brightly marked Brewster's Warbler huddled under a gray birch one September day, in the pouring rain of a line storm, and near here, in 1951, was a rarity of rarities — a female Lawrence's Warbler. Bay-breasted, Cape May, and Northern Water-Thrush are often common, as are Tennessees, in the fall. The Blue-wing turns up regularly, one or two being seen in late summer every year. Yellow Warblers offer an interesting study; on one bush I have seen a late Eastern with what appeared to be specimens of both the dark-backed Newfoundland and the greener Alaskan subspecies. A Mourning Warbler may be heard singing in this locality and followed from bush to bush in June; in the fall it must be called out of the bushes, as a very late one was found on October 1 and 2, in 1952. We think the Sanctuary one of the best places in the State for Orange-crowned and Connecticut Warblers; last October, on the 18th, 19th, and 20th, we saw as many as four of the former in one small area. But the Sanctuary's real specialty among the warblers is the Yellow-breasted Chat. From one to four a day are found during September and October by those who know their haunts; the bird has been seen in summer and may have bred in the swamp tangle, which appears to be an ideal habitat.

In the open field and edges many species of finches feed; Savannah, Tree, Chipping, Field, White-crowned, White-throated, Fox, Lincoln's, Swamp, and Song Sparrows congregate where weed seeds are abundant. The Dickcissel is now a commonplace; in the fall of 1952 one small brushpile yielded from two to five of these birds for several weeks — and in the same spot I found an immature Blue Grosbeak on October 1.

September of 1953 brought unusual birds to the Sanctuary; a Summer Tanager spent at least three weeks on the Neck, being seen in various places, including the maple-alder swamp. At noon one day I watched this very golden bird fly-catching from the lowest branches of a maple and swinging on the slender lower twigs as it devoured a large insect. Perhaps the most amazing of all the sights I have seen in the area was on September 18, 1953, when, on reaching the Bonad Road side of the area at 4:30 P.M., a bird so brightly colored that I knew it on the wing flew in and perched not fifty feet away on a low, dead maple branch — a Black-headed Grosbeak. The third record for New England, it was more brightly marked than the bird seen in Glastonbury, Conn., the previous January, showing a boldly striped black and white head and delicate apricot-colored breast with fine pencil markings.

Many thousands of land birds each year find sanctuary in this fifteen acres lying in the center of an island directly on their migration route. Did they but know, birds, as well as the many birders who enjoy studying them, would be delighted that the Massachusetts Audubon Society owns this land as a wildlife sanctuary for all future time.

I should like to thank Miss Ruth Ropes and Charles H. P. Copeland, of the Peabody Museum staff, for help and information given me in preparing this article.

## Thumbnail Sketches of Our Vice-Presidents

### Roger Tory Peterson



"Peterson" is a household word with Massachusetts bird watchers. Instead of saying, "Let's look in the Field Guide," we hear, "Let's look it up in Peterson," for *The Field Guide to the Birds* and *The Field Guide to Western Birds*, by ROGER TORY PETERSON, have become the standard identification guides throughout America. No doubt his new *Field Guide to the Birds of Great Britain and Europe*, expected early in 1954, will prove as popular in that part of the world.

Roger Tory Peterson was born in Jamestown, New York, on August 28, 1908. He received his art training at the Art Students League and the National Academy of Design, and he began his work as a decorative artist in 1926. He was fortunate in finding a counselor and friend in Clarence E. Allen, Headmaster of the Rivers Country Day School in Brookline, Massachusetts, where he was instructor in science and art from 1931 to 1934, and spent the summers as nature counselor at Camp Chewonki, Mr. Allen's camp for boys at Wiscasset, Maine. Since 1934 he has been engaged in bird painting and in illustrating his own and other bird books, also in carrying a very heavy program of writing, lecturing, and photography. To Massachusetts Audubon Society members, he is well known as a contributing editor to the *Bulletin*, an honorary vice-president of the Society, and a lecturer at annual meetings and on the Audubon Nature Theatre programs.

As editor, since 1946, of the Houghton, Mifflin Company's Field Guide Series, he has made frequent visits to Boston, and the Society has been able to consult with him on many matters, to see him in action on field trips, and to keep informed of current developments in the field of ornithological literature and art.

During World War II, Mr. Peterson served for two years in the Engineering Corps of the United States Army.

The members of the Massachusetts Audubon Society may take considerable satisfaction in the part the Society has taken in the career of Roger Tory Peterson, for at its beginning three of our Board of Directors were actively concerned with his climb to fame. Clarence Allen early recognized his ability and encouraged it. With the first draft of his *Field Guide* completed, Roger consulted another director, Dr. May, who promptly introduced him to a third, the late Francis Allen, then and for many years associated with Houghton Mifflin Company, and the first edition of "the birders' Bible" was soon on its way to instant success.

Today Mr. Peterson's volumes occupy a prominent place on our book shelves, lithographs of his bird paintings decorate the walls of many of our homes, and if we wear the Society's arm band we know that the design was taken from one of these paintings. The Society also makes frequent use of Mr. Peterson's excellent photographs in the *Bulletin*. This year most of the bird designs in the Wildlife Stamps issued by the National Wildlife Federation are his.

In addition to the two field guides already mentioned, Mr. Peterson is author of *The Junior Book of Birds* (1939); *Birds Over America* (1948); *How to Know the Birds* (1949); and *Wildlife in Color* (1951). He is co-author of *Audubon Guide to Attracting Birds* (1941) and furnished illustrations for *Birds of South Carolina* (1949), *Birds of Newfoundland* (1951), and *Arizona and Its Bird Life* (1951). He has written many educational pamphlets for the National Audubon Society and has contributed many articles, as well as illustrations, to both scientific and popular publications. In 1944 he was awarded the Brewster Memorial Medal by the American Ornithologists' Union, and in 1950 the John Burroughs Medal for exemplary nature writing. He is a Fellow of the American Ornithologists' Union, and a member of the Linnaean Society of New York, the British Ornithologists' Union, the Nuttall Ornithological Club, and a life member of the Wilson Ornithological Club. He is also a member of the Cosmos, Baird, and Biological Field Clubs of Washington, D. C.

Mr. Peterson's work has taken him to all parts of the United States, to Canada, Alaska, and also to Europe. We look forward to the time when he will produce a field guide to the birds of Africa for new students. There just are not enough days in the week or hours in the day to provide all of the field guides and other material his fellow birders would like to see produced. But with all the acclaim that his work has brought in the field of ornithology and of general natural history, Roger Peterson remains a modest, unassuming gentleman, which endears him to all his friends and associates. He is ably supported in his endeavors by Mrs. Peterson, and there are two young Petersons coming along in the field, Tory and Lee. Tory early learned to wield a paintbrush, to the dismay of his parents, especially on one occasion when his father had to do over several paintings which the young Tory had tried to improve.

C. RUSSELL MASON

## "SO MUCH FOR SO LITTLE"

### Time for Preparation

The month of March finds the Audubon staff midway between seasonal activities. A full winter schedule is nearing completion and will soon give way to an even fuller spring schedule and a greatly enlarged summer program. As in nature, time for preparation is needed to produce the flower and fruit of our efforts, and we can think of no better way to express our present occupation than in the poetic words of Helen Hunt Jackson when she wrote:

"Ah, March! we know thou art

Kind-hearted, spite of ugly looks and threats,

And, out of sight, art nursing April's violets."

May the months ahead abundantly prove the value of these days of preparation and reveal faithful performance in planning.

We welcome the following new members and are constantly encouraged by the mounting number of older members giving increased support to the work.

#### Life Member

\*Miskelly, Mrs. Clifton, Fairlee, Vt.

#### Contributing Members

\*Catheron, Mrs. Allan, Foxboro

\*\*Ellison, Mrs. E. H., Newton

\*\*Haskell, Miss Edith L., Newton Cire.

\*\*Haynes-Smith, Mrs. William, Boston

\*\*Mather, Mrs. Philip R., Brookline

\*Orrok, Mrs. George A., Cambridge

\*Phillips Academy Natural History Club, Andover

Pope, Mrs. Wilmot T., Boston

\*Rice, Edmund, Dover

\*\*Sargent, Mrs. Harry C., Boston

\*\*Turpin, Charles S., Hancock, N. H.

#### Supporting Members

\*Alton, Dr. Benjamin H., Woods Hole

\*Arnold, Mrs. Robert, Marblehead

Benét, Mrs. William Rose,

Hastings-on-Hudson, N.Y.

\*Broad, Mrs. Russell S., Newton Hlds.

\*Bruce, Miss Katherine L., Brookline

Curtis, Mrs. Laurence,

Washington, D.C.

Cutler, Donald, Jr., Hamilton

Dalrymple, Dr. Willard, Wellesley

Davis, Mr. and Mrs. Elmer W.,

Marblehead Neck

\*Jackson, Mr. and Mrs. R. H., Boston

\*Mar, James W., Concord

\*Noyes, Mrs. H. K., W. Newton

\*Plough, Mrs. Harold H., Amherst

\*Record, Mrs. Mabel A., Abington

Sharp, Mrs. Rosemary C., Weston

Simonds, Henry G., Jr., Cohasset

\*Transferred from Active Membership

\*\*Transferred from Supporting Membership

#### Active Members

Abbott, William C., Topsfield

Allen, Herbert C., Jr., Brattleboro, Vt.

Allis, Mrs. Frederick S., Amherst

Bailey, Mrs. George N., Kingston

Bates, Miss Carol, Gardiner, Me.

Bingham, Mrs. Rutherford, Boston

Birmingham, Mrs. Walter E., Medford

Bliss, Mrs. Earl L., Hyde Park

Bratton, Dr. Fred G., Springfield

Campbell, Mrs. Arthur G., Winthrop

Caskey, Mrs. Paul DeW., Belmont

Chandler, Miss Grace W., Leominster

Collins, Mrs. John, Malden

Connolly, Mrs. John J., Woburn

Coté, Philip J., Northampton

Craig, Mrs. Henry S., Millbrook

Daniels, Mrs. Carleton R., Islington

Darling, Rodger, Revere

Day, Miss H. P., Chatham

Day, Mrs. Louis C.,

W. Stewartstown, N. H.

Delany, George B., Chestnut Hill

Dennett, Mrs. P. L., Bedford

Donaldson, Mrs. R. W., Amherst

Dowling, Martin A., Belmont

Drake, Alvah C., Exeter, N. H.

Elder, Mrs. Dulcie E., Boston

Eldredge, Stuart, Springfield, Vt.

Fielding, Wendell S., Pittsfield

Frothingham, Donald, Concord

Garney, Mrs. Henry, Lynn

Gifford, Mrs. Preston W., Fairhaven

Gillen, Harold W., New Canaan, Conn.

Greene, Herbert T., Milton

Hamilton, Michael, Cambridge

Hammerschmidt, Mrs. Ada,

Framingham

Harcourt, Mrs. Albert, Hyde Park

Hayes, Mrs. Elmer B., E. Bridgewater

Hosmer, Richard, Sharon

Hutchinson, Mrs. L. C., Boston

Jennison, Dr. David B., Northampton

Johnson, Mrs. Howard F.,

Lebanon Springs, N. Y.



Johnson, Walter E., Pigeon Cove  
 Keast, James Allen, Cambridge  
 Kemp, Mrs. Addley N., Boston  
 LaRoe, Alfred C., Chatham Port  
 LaRoe, Mrs. Alfred C., Chatham Port  
 Last, Mrs. Walter H., Medford  
 Lewis, Mrs. Frank M., Weston  
 Lieson, William, Springfield  
 Loop, Mrs. Eugene H., Cambridge  
 McClintock, William F., Winchester  
 Mickelson, Miss Mildred V., Beverly  
 Munroe, Miss Polly,

Newton Lower Falls  
 Munyan, Mrs. Emery, Worcester  
 Newton, Miss Edith G.,

Southern Pines, N. C.  
 Nichols, Miss Millicent M., Salem  
 Nicholson, Mrs. Walter F., Hyde Park  
 Nickerson, William, Concord  
 Nunyan, Mrs. Emory, Worcester  
 Parker, Robert L., Lexington  
 Parker, Mrs. Robert L., Lexington  
 Parker, Russell F., Jr., Stoneham  
 Parnell, Mrs. E., Medford  
 Partridge, David B., Worcester  
 Pinkham, Roger, Cambridge  
 Pinkham, Mrs. Roger, Cambridge  
 Plemmons, Miss Mary, Boston  
 Pote, Mrs. Frank W., Medford  
 Potter, Miss Constance, Boston  
 Pulsifer, Mrs. Earl W.,

Damariscotta Mills, Me.

Raguse, Miss Mabel R.,

Shelburne Falls  
 Rand, Miss Ruth, Topsfield  
 Rice, Mrs. Mary J., Woburn  
 Robinson, George Y., Millis  
 Sanborn, Kenneth N., Boston  
 Saunders, Miss Bertha Allen, Ipswich  
 Schnare, Herbert, Boston  
 Scott, Mrs. Samuel C., Hyde Park  
 Small, Miss E. Ann, Melrose Hlds.  
 Smith, David L., Wayland  
 Stillman, Miss Ellen, Hanson  
 Stow, Mrs. Warren F., Bennington, Vt.  
 Tate, Mrs. Clifford G., Bradford  
 Taylor, Miss Eleanor, S. Boston  
 Taylor, Mrs. Millard D., Stoneham  
 Thyberg, Miss Olga, Springfield  
 Tilton, Miss June, Topsfield  
 Tirrell, Mrs. Irving, Weymouth  
 Trayner, Charles J., New London, N. H.  
 Wade, Miss Anne, Boston  
 Walsworth, Mrs. Minna B., Boston  
 Warren, Keith F., Boston  
 Watriss, F. W., Concord  
 Weeks, Robert W., Lexington  
 Welts, Mrs. Raymond E., Haverhill  
 Wilson, Mrs. Raida, Natick  
 Winsor, Alan M., Weston  
 Wood, Miss Sandra, Middleboro  
 Young, Mrs. Russell O., Hyde Park

### The American Ornithologists' Union

As the American Ornithologists' Union is planning to hold its annual meeting for 1955 in the Boston area, now is a good time to increase our local representation in this organization, and the Committee on Nominations sends us the following information which should interest many members of the Massachusetts Audubon Society.

The aim of the American Ornithologists' Union is the advancement of ornithological science. Through its publications, its annual meeting, its committees, and its membership, the Union has been steadily achieving this aim throughout the period of its existence.

The regular publications of the Union are *The Auk* and the *Check-List of North American Birds*. *The Auk*, the official organ of the Union, is published quarterly, beginning in January. Its primary object is the publication of major articles based on original studies of birds, but it also includes sections of general notes, reviews of new works in ornithology, a bibliography of recent literature, ornithological news, reports and announcements of the Union, biographical information, and revisions of the official *Check-List*. The four issues published each year comprise a volume of about 500 pages, with a complete index in the October issue. The *Check-List* gives the names and ranges of all the birds known to occur in North America north of Mexico and in Baja California. Fossil birds of North America are also listed. The *Check-List* has had four editions (the last in 1931); a fifth is in preparation.

Membership in the Union is open to all persons and comprises four classes: Associates, Members, Fellows, and Patrons. Upon election, all new members are classified as Associates and receive *The Auk*. Members and Fellows are elected from among the Associates.



Funds for carrying on the work of the Union are derived mainly from membership dues. The annual dues for Associates are \$4.00. Life membership exempts the holder from all further dues and may be obtained by a member of any class upon payment of \$100.00 (payable, if preferred, in four equal annual installments). Any member who becomes a Patron (has contributed a thousand dollars or more) is also exempt from annual dues. The funds derived from the payments of Life Members and Patrons are put in the General Endowment Fund. The endowment funds are in the charge of trustees who are elected annually but usually serve for a number of terms.

For information or application for membership, write to: William H. Drury, Jr., The Biological Laboratories, Harvard University, 16 Divinity Avenue, Cambridge 38, Mass., Representative of the Committee on the Nomination of Associates.

### Early Christmas Counts

"The Christmas Bird Counts (formerly called Censuses) may cause one at times to say with the poet, 'Backward, turn backward, O Time in your flight, Make me a child again . . .' This year, when Mrs. Wade and I were taking part in the Christmas Count on the North Shore, I was reminded of years long past when my dad and I took a Christmas Census. Looking back in my file of *Bird-Lore* (now *Audubon Magazine*), I find the following in the issue for Jan.-Feb. 1907 (7th Christmas Bird Census): 'Ipswich, Mass. Time 10 A.M.-12M. Cloudy; about a foot of snow on the ground; wind northwest, fresh. Temp. 30°. Crow, 39; Chickadee, 18; Hawk, 1; Flicker, 1; Pine Grosbeak, 6. Total 5 species, 65 individuals. Francis C. Wade and Jesse H. Wade.' The following year, Jan.-Feb., 1908 (Eighth Christmas Census), the record read: 'Ipswich, Mass. Dec. 25th. 11:00 A.M.-12 M. Clear, ground bare; temp. 50°. Herring Gull, 80; Crow, 16; Sparrow, 3; Flicker, 1. Total 4 species, 100 individuals. Jesse H. Wade and Francis C. Wade.'"

The comment of the Wades on the Christmas Bird Counts inspired me to look up my personal records. I found the first one that I apparently reported was in 1912, when in Doylestown, Pa. Covering woods and fields for six and a half hours on foot, with snow on the ground, I recorded 18 species and 104 individuals. The record for the following year shows that my mother, observing from the windows of our house only, found 16 species and 543 individuals — I judge most of them coming to our feeding stations. In 1915, the record of 18 species was equalled by members of the Doylestown Nature Club, long an active group in that area.

Most of the early Christmas Counts were taken by individuals or by small groups of people rather than by the large groups that cover the areas today. Some of the early local records show that Charles B. Floyd, on the 1904 Christmas Count in Brookline, found 13 species, including a wintering Catbird. Samuel A. Eliot, Jr. joined with John H. Baker for a Cambridge count in 1905 which produced only 6 species but 423 individuals. In 1906, Samuel D. Robbins and a companion found in Belmont 8 species and 31 individuals, including 15 Pine Grosbeaks, and two days later they took another count which produced 12 species. That same year a party of three in Boston located 33 species, a very high count for that time. In 1916, Dr. John B. May found 25 species at Cohasset and included an Oriole and an Orange-crowned Warbler.

Who else among our readers may have similar pleasant recollections?

C. RUSSELL MASON

## From the Editors' Sanctum

March, 1954

### A Far-Reaching Society

If any of our members do not realize how widely known is the work of the Massachusetts Audubon Society, and how wide-spreading is the scope of our membership, it may be of interest to note the addresses given by our new members and those who have transferred their memberships to a higher bracket, as printed in the *Bulletin* during the past year only.

One hundred and fifty-three of these members give addresses outside of our "home state" of Massachusetts. New Hampshire leads with 29; Connecticut is second with 24; and New York is a close third with 23. Then come Maine with 15, Vermont 14, New Jersey 8, Rhode Island 7, and Maryland 4. Pennsylvania, Florida, and California have three each; Ohio, Minnesota, and Illinois two each; and there is a single member each from the District of Columbia, South Carolina, Georgia, Indiana, Michigan, Iowa, Missouri, and Nevada. There are also five foreign countries represented, Japan with two new members, and Canada, England, France, and India, one each. (We also have older members in Switzerland, Peru, and one of the "Iron Curtain" countries.)

We of the Audubon Society staff are often surprised at the far-flung results of our publicity and news releases. We have just received a letter from a non-member in France regarding the "Christmas Tree for the Birds" which we sponsored last December. The letter is addressed to "Monsieur le Directeur de la Société Audubon," and starts in "Cher Monsieur — Je vois aujourd'hui sur mon journal que votre société a offert un arbre de Noël pour les oiseaux." So our work is recognized far and near. Whether the article in the French newspaper was quoted from our *Bulletin* or was due to one of our news releases is immaterial; the fact that our plan for "Christmas Trees for the Birds" received publicity on the other side of the Atlantic is noteworthy.

The work of our educational staff is constantly expanding. We are sending our teachers this year to several towns which have never before had the advantages of our courses in Conservation and Natural Science, and additional classes are being included in the programs of other cities and towns. In Rhode Island, where we co-operate with the Audubon Society of that State, our courses are very well received and the work is expanding. It is our hope that the work there will be so successful that the Rhode Island society will be able to take it over, lock, stock, and barrel, and eventually cover the entire region.

"Nothing succeeds like success," and our educational program has now sold itself to many progressive school committees, superintendents, and principals, so that it is in a fair way to become largely self-supporting. But to carry it into those towns which do not as yet have our program we need the help of public-spirited people everywhere, and we will need that help as long as our expansion continues. Bequests are most gratefully received, but so are donations or subscriptions, large or small. And every membership does its bit toward helping on the cause of Conservation of all our Natural Resources.

J. B. M.

### Audubon Field Trips

SUNDAY, MARCH 23. To Sudbury Valley for early migrants. Leaders: Richard Borden, Henry Parker, Alan Morgan, and C. Russell Mason. Fare and guide fee, \$3.00. Fee for those using private cars and following bus, 75 cents per person.

SUNDAY, APRIL 25. To Westport for land and water birds and spring migrants. Fare and guide fee, **\$3.75**. Fee for those using private cars and following bus, 75 cents per person.

Unless otherwise noted, all Audubon field trips will leave Audubon House, 155 Newbury Street, Boston, at 8:15 A.M. by chartered bus, returning at approximately 7:00 P.M. Reservations should be made a week or more in advance. Cancellations cannot be accepted after noon of the Friday preceding the trip. Bring your own lunch.

### Sanctuary Notes for January

ARCADIA. The dark-green leaves of the evergreen inkberry, *Ilex glabra*, always look well against the winter snows. The black fruits persist unless eaten, some usually remaining until spring. At Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary, the inkberry had an added attraction during January, because it provided food during a critical period of severe weather for a Hermit Thrush. Late in the month one or two Song Sparrows confirmed an observation of last year that they like snowberry. Siberian crabapple and highbush cranberry fruits still hang, insurance policies for early spring migrants. Several female Pheasants ate a few highbush cranberries one day recently, looking rather ludicrous sitting up in the bushes. Pine Grosbeaks could still come along and clean up quickly the remaining fruits, or it could be the first waves of Robins or the Cedar Waxwings that will get them. Some of the berries may eke out an early spring diet for a group of Bluebirds. Without much doubt, however, the remaining fruits will fit into the menu of some wildlife form between now and the end of May.

Nine boy scouts came to the Sanctuary on Sundays during January. On their way to rank of Eagle Scout, these boys came to relate what they had done during the past late summer and fall in the field of Nature. According to present requirements, each scout must study in the field a typical wildlife community and submit evidence that he has studied soils, waters, plants, and animals living there. The boys had a little trouble explaining "plant successions," mostly because the language in their handbook is too technical. In general, the boys seemed to have at least a nodding acquaintance with the common birds, although "red-headed woodpeckers" and "chicken hawks" popped up as usual.

In response to written requests to an offer made on a television program, fifty-six copies of the reprinted article "Invite Your Bird Neighbors to Dinner" were mailed out. Later, our energetic member Glenn Weeks mentioned the availability of this reprint in his weekly news column in the *Greenfield Recorder*. Forty-one of his readers wrote in for a copy. In both cases an invitation to join the Society was inserted. Anybody interested in inviting his bird neighbors to dinner should have our *Bulletin* regularly to learn of the newest wrinkles.

Our neighbor in Hadley, Col. George A. Taylor, thought of Arcadia recently and sent us three framed pictures. Represented were the Snow Goose, Prairie Chicken, and Wood Duck. These pictures were most welcome and will find a place in our educational program.

Contributions to the Arcadia land fund continue to come in. If a substantial number of friends or visitors would merely donate a dollar between now and the end of June there is a good chance that we would be able to report that we had liquidated our indebtedness.

Arcadia's Advisory Committee met on January 7. Spring programs were shaped up at that meeting, and we can announce at this time the continuance of the popular Saturday morning nature hikes during April. The groups this year will be led by students from Smith College and the University of Massachusetts.

Because so many people are interested in making their home grounds more attractive to birds, it was decided to demonstrate at Sanctuary Headquarters on Saturday morning, April 24, 9:30 to 11:30, the method of plant propagation initiated by Lewis Lipp, of the Arnold Arboretum. This is a method of

extreme simplicity which can be used by gardeners not owning a greenhouse. We are happy to announce that Mr. Lipp has consented to give a personal demonstration of his method at Arcadia, including some new ideas from recent experiments. This meeting will be open to anyone. Please call it to the attention of your garden club.

The annual Spring Clean-up Day will be held on Sunday, April 25, from 10:00 to 3:00. The Advisory Committee will bring their families and friends as usual.

Ten to twenty Mallards and many Black Ducks were in the Marsh at both the beginning and end of January. They were absent during the mid-month cold spell. The Mt. Tom Duck Hawk swept down over the Sanctuary on the 14th, and the Great Horned Owl sang his mournful lay on the 11th. A lone Flicker has been seen on two occasions. Many Purple Finches and a good flock of Evening Grosbeaks livened up the scene at the feeders during January.

EDWIN A. MASON

**COOK'S CANYON.** At last the Evening Grosbeaks have added color and life to the cold white stretches of the January landscape. On the 11th four males at our feeder produced a flurry of excitement, and on succeeding days we watched eagerly, waiting for them to establish a regular visiting schedule. To date their visits have been sporadic. Sometimes the empty shells and scattered food announce clearly that they have breakfasted before us. Sometimes their hollow thumping sound interrupts the lunch hour. Males and females appear to be equal in numbers in the recent flocks, which have never numbered more than fifty. At times the five feeders have been in use simultaneously.

Fortunately, the English Sparrows, reputed to discourage Purple Finches, have not alarmed our stalwart finch visitors. Our English Sparrows prefer to share the cracked corn with the Pheasants. On January 20, five Cedar Waxwings perched in our maple tree. Although one Barre resident reports having them at her feeder, none have accepted Audubon hospitality.

Since the Pheasant is not a monogamous bird, and one cock can easily mate with more than six hens, our local ratio speaks well for a productive breeding season in 1954. Regularly we see six or seven hens devouring the cracked corn at the trough feeder with the one cock, his beautiful iridescent plumage conspicuous even in the gray light of early morning, domineering the group.

A rare winter opportunity to hike through the pine plantation without hip boots or snowshoes presented itself on one of the balmy days during a recent January thaw. As a family we took advantage of the warm sun to check activities in the deeper woods. Tracks of the squirrels and rabbits fascinated the youngsters, while the oldsters were more interested in the operations of two Flying Squirrels recently released. Obviously they had raided the food supply of apples and nuts left for their convenience. The wood duck box stocked with nesting material they had ignored as a home. Closer observation showed that their decision had been wise — the nesting material had frozen. Man can't outwit nature!

A routine check of feeders on our return from the Annual Meeting produced an injured bird huddled in the corner of one feeder. When brought inside for examination, the bird proved to be a Northern Horned Lark. At home even under artificial lights, he didn't flutter or attempt to escape. One wing droops slightly, but we hope he'll recover sufficiently to be released. We have no idea as to how he got into the feeder.

Mrs. James F. Nields, Jr., Chairman of the Sanctuary Committee, wishes to add a *nota bene*. Seeds stored within the home may invite meal moths. Recently she had trouble exterminating them in her library. At the Sanctuary, we have been bothered by the same pests.\*

Already we are anticipating a spring improvement program for both buildings and grounds. If any members redesigning gardens have thinnings, we hope that at the appropriate time they will consider the landscaping program at Cook's Canyon.

Late January arrivals — Goldfinches at the feeders and Pine Siskins in the Canyon.

DAVID MINER

\*When possible, bird food should be kept in tight metal containers. Exposure to continuous freezing weather for four or five days, or severe cold followed by high temperatures, will kill moths and larvae. Stacks may be sprayed with carbon disulphide or fumigated. Meal moths do no damage to clothes, books, etc. — Editor.

PLEASANT VALLEY. The month of January brought the long-awaited winter weather. Below zero readings occurred on a number of mornings. The *Berkshire Eagle* somewhat embarrassed me by reporting that the temperature went to 32° below zero on January 18. The source of the report will probably forever remain a mystery, but our reputation for being the coldest spot in Massachusetts will be long remembered. The very next day I was presented with a new thermometer from one of the local lumber companies. They felt we needed one, I guess. My wife bought a good maximum-minimum recording thermometer on the same day, so we should now be able to give the correct temperature. Our thermometer read only 4° below that morning.

We have had the biggest flock of Tree Sparrows this winter that I have yet seen at Pleasant Valley. A flock of sixteen or twenty is a regular thing along with the usual numbers of Chickadees, Nuthatches, Downy and Hairy Woodpeckers, and Jays. Goldfinches have been in the yard but have never learned to come to the feeders here. On the 21st, as I stepped to the porch, I heard the Chickadees giving their characteristic alarm note, which is quite different from their scolding *dee-dee*. Knowing this was a pretty certain sign of a hawk, I ran in and grabbed my glasses and then out to scan the sky. Sure enough, the first Red-tail of the year was to be seen circling directly over the house. The Chickadees evidently consider a hawk a hawk and do not differentiate between Buteos and Accipiters. It would be interesting to study this further, for as I write this I cannot recall ever hearing the Chickadees call because of the passing overhead of our summer-resident Broad-winged Hawks, but of course Chickadees do not come to the feeders in as large numbers in summer as in winter, and perhaps we just didn't notice their alarm.

On January 25, a mild day with temperatures up to 45° F., our first Crow of the season put in its appearance — an early date, for they go into the low cultivated valleys here in winter. The Pileated was heard drumming above in Partridge Woods. And Chickadees and Nuthatches were heard giving their spring songs. Grouse have shown their usual interest in the bittersweet and have pretty nearly eaten it all up. The other day there were four sets of tracks leading across the front lawn from the bittersweet in the front yard to the barberry right up by the house. There were ample signs that the Grouse had eaten some of these.

On January 9 I caught up the last of the Mallards. Previously, at the end of December, I had caught sixteen of them by just picking them up as they ate, but the last eight refused to be caught and became exceedingly wary. I



finally had to set a drop trap on the pond to get these last few which stayed on the pond and kept a very small area of the pond open by swimming around in it even though the temperature had dropped to zero several times.

At last the Ackroyd house is nearly finished. At least, it was nearly enough finished so that we could move the Hawkes family into it on the 31st. The interior has been completely renovated and redecorated. Now, on February 1, I imagine I feel much as a Beaver does when the pond freezes up. The house may not be done, but all that can be done has been done.

ALVAH W. SANBORN

**IPSWICH RIVER.** The above-average temperature and open weather continued through the first of the year, and then winter arrived. January 17 was a typical cold midwinter day, the wind cutting like a knife and whistling through the marsh grasses. High overhead in the pale blue sky a magnificent Red-tailed Hawk circled. A Blue Jay screamed harshly from the woods, but no other birds did I see. In a straight line a Fox's way in the snow, leaving the south field thicket, crossed the clearing and entered the locust and bitter-sweet tangle, and there I flushed two cock Pheasants who had been tussling with the orange-red berries. The crisp dry cold made the snow powdery, and the steady wind built up drifts.

North of the hilltop field the large grove of Carolina hemlocks, *Tsuga caroliniana*, were frosted with new snow. Beneath their quiet shelter Rabbits scurried, and overhead Golden-crowned Kinglets were busy. The tenacious leaves of our native beech rattled in the wind and added a color contrast to the landscape. Three species of Japanese bamboo, including one with variegated foliage, have proved hardy through our winters. Blanketed in the snow, they are a tropical novelty and do not resemble any of our native grasses.

The tardy Evening Grosbeaks did not appear until January 18, when three of them dropped in to the table feeder. They reappeared at infrequent intervals the rest of the month and increased to eleven in number. The heavy cone crop of our northern woods did not deter their annual visit to their preferred diet of sunflower seed.

On January 3 a drake Wood Duck was seen in Mile Brook, and on the 10th the Virginia Rail was still present. A Northern Shrike on the 3rd surveyed the Purple Finch feeding area near the river. Throughout the month a Marsh Hawk harried the fields. Juncos and Tree Sparrows were the common species at the feeders. Two White-throated Sparrows, a Song Sparrow, and a Hairy Woodpecker were steady boarders.

January 2 brought a group of twenty-seven Appalachian Mountain Club members for a long walk on the Sanctuary trails. And on the 24th the Audubon Cape Ann and Newburyport Field Trip met here for a check of the day's luck and a social hour.

A new Black Duck weather vane swings on the garage roof. It was made and presented to the Sanctuary by George E. Benson, of Salem.

On Saturdays and Sundays during March we will welcome all the volunteer help you can give us on our new clearing project. If you don't have tools, come just the same. It is willing hands that we need.

ELMER FOYE

**MOOSE HILL.** The heavy snows and descending temperatures of January were in marked contrast to the mild and open weather of the preceding month, and the sharpened appetites of our increased bird population made us delve deeper into bags of Moose Hill mixture. Those of us who maintain winter feeders know full well how a snowfall immediately builds up the patronage

at feeding stations and how the first few falling flakes appear to have an almost magical influence in bringing an abundance of birds to our various feeding devices. In fact, it is generally well known that a snowstorm is often heralded by a large influx of feeding birds, a kind of avian barometer as it were. The sudden flocking of Juncos, Chickadees, Purple Finches, and other varieties is always a heart-warming sight, and one cannot but marvel at their ability to beat the storm to the punch.

Not until the day before the annual meeting (Jan. 23) were we able to say yes to one of the most frequently asked questions this winter, Have you had any Grosbeaks? It was while we were putting the finishing touches to the Moose Hill pictures placed on exhibition at Northeastern University that a flock of six Evening Grosbeaks, including two adult males, finally put in a belated appearance. We were apprized of their arrival by the loud tattoo of their heavy bills on the window feeders as they picked up the sunflower seeds and by their noisy badinage as they jockeyed about on the platform. After a long lapse of many months these handsome "Daughters of Night" were a most welcome addition to the Sanctuary's winter roster of birds. Their bold and contrasty colors of black and white and gold seemed well-adapted to the boldness of their manners and their unabashed appetites. This same small group lingered briefly, and subsequent visits from other individuals were in small and varying numbers, and none tarried longer than a couple of days. Perhaps February will produce Evening Grosbeaks in larger and more consistent flocks.

If the large Snowy Owl that was brought to the Sanctuary for temporary custody by Dr. John B. May looked somewhat more sooty than snowy it was not to be construed as a dark phase or melanistic individual. It was just one of many of its kind that have invaded New England this winter, especially along the coastal areas. This particular bird, however, had tried to roost or hide in a sooty chimney in Hull, where he floundered badly and was rescued by members of one of our Audubon natural science classes. His most pressing need was a sudsy shower bath or a dry-cleaning service. While at the Sanctuary the bird was a popular subject for photographic studies, but to workers in black and white he presented the problem of how to avoid producing what looked like a badly overexposed print. Despite all known darkroom manipulations and choice of contrasting papers, there appeared to be no alternative but to append to the properly exposed and carefully finished print the apologetic note: "This bird came down a chimney."

And, speaking of contrasts, it was one day when we were out to provide the sooty Snowy with some freshly-caught mice (donated by neighbors) that we witnessed, hopping about gingerly, on the snow under a thorn apple tree, a bird that seemed totally displaced in such environs — a lone male Robin. We paused and sighed, wishing hopefully that the rigorous weeks ahead would deal kindly with this errant individual, and then went on to minister to the needs of the salvaged Snowy.

If at times during the month some of the bird life along the trails was not in great abundance, there were visitors who found compensating delight and interest in acquainting themselves with the green warmth of the various evergreens, the colorful buds of the many broad-leaved trees, or the tracks of mammals sprawled in running script on a broad expanse of snow. When the weather warmed a bit, those footprints became a bed of slush or soft earth, but to the outdoor-minded their decipherment offered a rewarding challenge.

ALBERT W. BUSSEWITZ

## New Audubon Staff Member



MISS MARY ALICE CARROLAN, formerly of Ballston Spa, New York, has recently joined the Audubon staff as assistant in public relations. She was graduated from Jackson College in 1953, having majored in English Literature. Her student activities included membership on the Tufts Student Council; the Jackson Student Council; the Tufts Election Committee; Chi Omega Sorority, of which she was president in her senior year; Middle Hall, a club for English majors; class officer in freshman and senior years; dormitory president in junior year; and for two years on the Tufts *Weekly* staff.

Miss Carrolan has had eight years of summer camping, including three years as counselor at a private girls' camp in the Catskills. In a student tour through Europe in 1952, she visited seven countries, part hosteling.

She is presently interested in the Tufts Alumnae Association and in volunteer work at the International House in Cambridge for the Committee on Friendly Relations among Foreign Students.

In addition to a growing interest in the outdoors and nature, Miss Carrolan enjoys golf, bridge, reading, classical music, travel, and the theater.

## Bird Identification Course at Ipswich River

An Elementary Course in Bird Identification for Essex County residents will be held again this spring at Ipswich River Wildlife Sanctuary, Topsfield, under the direction of Elmer P. Foye, Sanctuary Director. This course will consist of five meetings held on Wednesday evenings, at 8:00, from April 14 to May 12, and will include two Saturday morning walks at the Sanctuary.

## Coming Events at the Berkshire Museum

### Pittsfield, Massachusetts

- March 2-31. Jewish Anniversary Exhibition. Lent by Rabbi Jacob Freedman.
  - March 2, 8 p.m. Hoffmann Bird Club discussion panel—"Identification of Birds in Flight."
  - March 7, 2 p.m. Musical Talent in our Schools.
  - March 7, 8:15 p.m. Pittsfield Little Symphony—Jan Stocklinski, Conductor.
  - March 10, 8 p.m. Camera Club—Illustrated talk by Ralph A. Hammann.
  - March 18, 8:15 p.m. Town Players, "One Act Play Festival."
  - March 19, 8:15 p.m. Town Players, "One Act Play Festival."
  - March 20, 8:15 p.m. Town Players, "One Act Play Festival."
  - March 23, 8 p.m. A.I.E.E. Speaking Competition.
  - March 25, 8 p.m. Little Cinema, "Hamlet."
  - March 26, 8 p.m. Little Cinema, "Hamlet."
  - March 27, 3, 7 and 9 p.m. Little Cinema, "Hamlet."
  - March 28, 3 and 8 p.m. Little Cinema, "Hamlet."
- Other matinees to be announced.

### New Audubon Staff Member



We are glad to announce a late addition to our teaching staff this year, Mrs. Harris Aron, of Cambridge, who has assumed charge of the Audubon conservation classes in the schools of Lexington and some other towns in eastern Massachusetts.

Mrs. Aron prepared for college at the Atlantic City, New Jersey, High School, afterwards attending Syracuse University, from which she was graduated with a B.S. degree in public speaking. While at Syracuse, Mrs. Aron was active in the debating club and in the speakers bureau and was business manager of the campus magazine. She also has considerable

interest in sports and in art. Her college course included studies in the natural sciences, with particular attention to taxidermy, which will stand her in good stead in her work with the Audubon Society.

Mrs. Aron has engaged in summer camp activities, assisting in arts and crafts at the Geneva Camp, Lake Como, Pennsylvania, and she has also participated in the summer child care program in Atlantic City. Her community service has included soliciting for the Community Chest and rolling bandages for the American Red Cross.

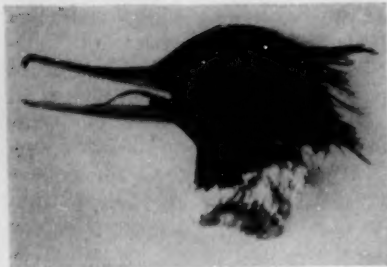
Supplementing her teaching schedule, Mrs. Aron will help restore the Society's collection of mounted birds and skins for use in displays and in teaching, and will care for additional specimens received from time to time.

### A Tufted Duck Comes to Massachusetts

Perhaps the outstanding bird record of recent months in Massachusetts was made about noon on January 24 by Professor Samuel A. Eliot, with his field identification of a European Tufted Duck, a species which had not previously been recorded nearer than Greenland, we believe. The bird was seen in a large flock of Greater Scaups, feeding off the east end of the island between the "chain bridges" in Newburyport. "It looked entirely black except for snow-white sides, which met the black upper-parts in a sharp line, beautifully wavy. The diagnostic 'tuft' jutted conspicuously from its occiput — the high back of its head — in the form of a small bunch of down-curved feathers."

News of Professor Eliot's discovery was quickly spread about and while there are always skeptics when identification is by sight only, the bird has since been observed by many excellent field observers, and there can be no reasonable doubt that a new bird has appeared in Massachusetts, and that it is also the first record of the species for the continent of North America. The entire Audubon Field Trip of February 14 watched the bird with scopes and binoculars, and other groups have also studied it. The bird was still present as late as February 20, and we hope will remain unharmed until the spring migration takes it northward. The closet naturalists may not be willing to accept this record without a dead specimen, but those others who viewed it under good conditions will hold to their opinion that the Tufted Duck of Europe should now be included among the stragglers to Massachusetts.

## From Our Correspondence



### Merganser in Distress

A Cohasset gunner shot this Red-breasted Merganser in flight off Cohasset. When he picked the bird up, much to his surprise, he found what you see in the photograph. He brought it to me and asked me what I thought had happened. Of course, it is all guesswork as to how the rubber band became lodged under the bird's tongue and over the lower mandible and finally over the back of its head. My guess is that this rubber band was on the bottom of the ocean, perhaps moving along with the undercurrent, and the bird, thinking it was a worm, seized it and it caught under his tongue and over his mandible. Then, trying to disengage it, the bird twisted his head and the band looped over the back of his head. Another suggestion is that the bird dove for fish and the rubber band was floating and slipped over his head and under his tongue and mandible.

Cohasset, Mass. Laurence B. Fletcher

(Or did some perverted human, having caught the Merganser "poaching" at a fish hatchery, place the band as a warning, and then release the bird? It is hard to believe it was an "accident." Ed.)

### Winter Birding in the Carolinas

While visiting my daughter in Baltimore, I was taken to the North and South Carolina shores to see winter birds that might be there. In Pettingill's *Eastern Guide to Bird Finding*, there occurs a most intriguing account of the *thousands* of Whistling Swans to be seen in the company of Canada Geese at the Lake Mattamuskeet Refuge in North Carolina. As neither my daughter nor I had ever seen Whistling Swans, they were our first objective.

Our first night was spent at Deep Creek, at the northern edge of Dismal Swamp. We drove across the Swamp the next morning over U. S. 17 via Edenton, N. C. (the first capital of that State) and to Washington, where we turned left on Route 264. We followed that for 80 miles to New Holland and the refuge. We had expected to

find accommodations at the hostel there and to observe the birds early the following morning as they were leaving for the feeding grounds. To our surprise and disappointment, hunters completely filled the lodge! It seemed so strange that hunting should be allowed on a refuge, but it was explained that two sections of the lake are set aside for hunters under an agreement with the State of North Carolina. Federal as well as State regulations are enforced. It was our bad luck to go there at that time. We did see great numbers of Canada Geese and one pair of the Whistling Swans and were told by the natives that we were fortunate to have seen that many, and that "if there ever were vast numbers of the swans to be seen, it was a long, long time ago."

We then found comfortable lodgings in a private house at Fairfield across the lake. We saw the geese going out the next morning to feed.

After driving back to Route 17, we followed it to New Bern, N. C., where we had lunch at a delightful old inn and then followed along toward Wilmington on our way to McClellanville, S. C., another sanctuary. It was quite foggy and there were no birds to be seen there. But we were told that if we would go through the Francis Marion National Forest we would surely see birds. We did so and saw Wild Turkeys, Brown-headed Nuthatch, finches, thrushes, and many Bluebirds. All along the way we had seen a great many Bluebirds, Martins, Meadowlarks, Sparrow Hawks, a Bald Eagle, and a few Pileated and Red-headed Woodpeckers.

Our greatest treat was the Brookgreen Gardens, just north of Georgetown, S. C. A soft misty rain was mixed with the fog as we strolled through those beautiful gardens with their long rows of wonderful century-old live oaks draped in the fairy-like moss. We were almost alone and could enjoy studying the many birds undisturbed. We saw a Hermit Thrush, Towhee, Myrtle Warblers, Cardinals, Mockingbirds, Robins, Flickers, Broad-tailed Hawk, Boat-tailed Grackles, Ground Doves, many Kingfishers, Pine Siskins, Cedar Waxwings, American Egret, Great Blue Herons, Phoebe, Sapsuckers, Carolina Wrens, Titmice, Carolina Chickadees, and what I think was a pair of European Goldfinches in winter plumage.

We were gone just a week and felt well repaid, even though we did not see "ten thousand" Whistling Swans!

Weymouth, Mass.

Edna F. Sayward



## LOOKING AHEAD: SOME DATES TO REMEMBER

### MEETINGS AT AUDUBON HOUSE

#### Boston Malacological Club

Mar. 2, 8:00 P.M.

#### Massachusetts Conservation Council

Mar. 3, 2:00 P.M.

#### Massachusetts Audubon Society

Mar. 5, Staff Meeting, 9:30 A.M.

Mar. 10, Board of Directors, 3:00 P.M.

#### Old Colony Bird Club

Mar. 8, 22, 7:30 P.M.

### MASSACHUSETTS AUDUBON SOCIETY, STAFF LECTURES

Mar. 9, Unitarian Church Association, Dedham

Mar. 16, Needham Garden Club, Needham

Mar. 18, Boston Philatelic Society, Boston

Mar. 24, Malden Garden Club, Malden

Mar. 24, Guild of the Holy Name, West Roxbury

Mar. 29, Junior League Garden Club, Wellesley Hills

### AUDUBON FIELD TRIPS

Mar. 28. To Sudbury Valley. Leave Audubon House, 8:15 A.M.

Apr. 25. To Westport. Leave Audubon House, 8:15 A.M.

### ADULT WORKSHOPS and COURSES

Mar. 16-May 18. "The Three Kingdoms." Tuesday morning course. Introduction to Nature Study. Audubon House, 10:00 to 11:30 A.M. Miss Frances Sherburne, leader.

Mar. 31-May 19. Advanced Bird Identification Course. Audubon House, Wednesday evenings, 7:30.

Apr. 6-May 18. "The Three Kingdoms." Tuesday evening course. An Introductory Adult Course in Nature Study. Audubon House, 7:30 P.M.

Apr. 8-May 20. "The Web of Life." Intermediate Natural Science Course. Audubon House, Thursday evenings, 7:30 P.M.

### AUDUBON NATURE THEATRE

Mar. 11. "Western Discovery." Laurel Reynolds. Sage Hall, Smith College, 8:00 P.M.

Mar. 12. "Western Discovery." Laurel Reynolds. Beverly High School, 7:30 P.M.

Mar. 13. "Western Discovery." Laurel Reynolds. New England Mutual Hall, Boston, 10:30 A.M.

Mar. 20. "The Grass Forest." Robert Hermes. New England Mutual Hall, Boston, 10:30 A.M.

Mar. 22. "Bonaventure Diary," Robert Hermes. Berkshire Museum, Pittsfield, 8:00 P.M.

Mar. 23. "The Grass Forest." Robert Hermes. Northampton High School, 7:30 P.M.

Mar. 24. "The Grass Forest." Robert Hermes. Town Hall, Sterling Center, 8:00 P.M.

Mar. 25. "Bonaventure Diary." Robert Hermes. Horticultural Hall, Worcester, 8:00 P.M.

Mar. 26. "The Grass Forest." Robert Hermes. Attleboro High School Auditorium, Attleboro, 7:30 P.M.

Mar. 27. "The Grass Forest." Robert Hermes. New Bedford High School Auditorium, New Bedford, 10:00 A.M.

### AT AUDUBON SANCTUARIES

Apr. 3, 10, 17, 24. Arcadia Sanctuary, Northampton. Saturday morning hikes. 9:00 - 11:00.

Apr. 14 - May 12. Ipswich River Sanctuary, Topsfield. Elementary Course in Bird Identification conducted by Elmer Foye. Wednesday evenings at 8:00. Two Saturday morning walks.

Apr. 24. Arcadia Sanctuary. 9:30 - 11:30. Demonstration by Lewis Lipp, of the Arnold Arboretum, of new method of propagating berry-bearing and other shrubs and trees.

Apr. 25. Arcadia Sanctuary. 10:00 - 3:00. Annual Spring Clean-up Day. Bring lunch. Coffee provided.

### BOSTON FLOWER SHOW. Visit the Audubon Booth.

Mar. 14-20. Mechanics Hall.

**Bird Food, Books, and Stationery may be purchased at all of our Sanctuaries, as well as at AUDUBON HOUSE**

## Brookline Bird Club Trips

### Open to Members of the Massachusetts Audubon Society

March 6, all day. Devereux, Marblehead, West Peabody. Mr. Alan Goodridge, Jefferson 2-1167-J.

March 7 (Sunday afternoon). Nahant. Miss Olga Thisland, LYnn 3-3128.

March 13, all day. Automobile trip to South Shore. Mr. Walsh, Beverly 1470. Afternoon, Arnold Arboretum. Miss Sarah Wollaston, BLuehills 8-2750.

March 20, all day. Newburyport and vicinity. Miss Eleanor Barry, MEIrose 4-5888.

Afternoon, Belmont Hill. Miss Frances Lawson, CApitol 7-5618.

March 27, all day. Automobile trip to Westport. Mr. Lee Jameson, Beverly 1239-R. Afternoon, Nahant. Mrs. Boot, LYnn 8-0257.

April 3, all day. Sudbury, Wayside Inn, and vicinity. Miss Dorothy Caldwell, Natick 1622-J.

April 4, Sunday afternoon. Wayland. Miss Ellen Riggs, UNiversity 4-4229.

## Reviews of Recent Acquisitions

**HOW ANIMALS MOVE.** By James Gray. Illustrated by Edward Bawden. Cambridge University Press, New York. 114 pages. \$3.00.

Do you just accept the effortless glide of a soaring eagle or the supple rhythm of a cantering horse? The plan by which nature has granted varieties of movement from the amoeba using its false feet to the Gannet using its feather-covered limbs is clearly shown in a series of Christmas lectures given to a juvenile audience at the Royal Institution and presented in *How Animals Move*.

The reader is given a brief basic insight into the mechanics of motion. The pages then unfold delightful glimpses of the animal kingdom in motion. In the water the Portuguese Man-of-War sails by followed by the jet-propelled squid. The turtle paddles along while the trout quickly outdistances it. Nature's finest swimmer, the dolphin, as nominated by the author, swims by. On land the horse gallops while the bear walks slowly. A kangaroo jumps out of sight, quickly followed by a flea. A snake gracefully moves along by pushing against a roughened surface. In the air a flying fish momentarily takes to the realm of the gliding Albatross. The bat flies in a manner not as restricted as that of the Flying Squirrel. Insects represent the invertebrates in the air. The mastery of the birds in this element is recognized as eagles and vultures are glimpsed.

As it was impossible for the live exhibits to accompany the author's written lectures, sketches as well as photographs are generously used to help the reader visualize the movement types presented.

The author's aim in writing was to interest the reader in observing animals in motion. After reading his book, I found myself really seeing my dog use his legs as he ran ahead of me. Of course, we were out looking for animals in motion!

LYDIA G. ANDREWS

**THE CIRCLE OF THE YEARS: The Journal of a Naturalist's Year.** By Edwin Way Teale. Photographs by the Author. Dodd, Mead & Company, New York. 1953. 306 pages. \$4.00.

Edwin Way Teale is a prolific writer (the flyleaves of this volume list thirteen other books he has published), but he is always an interesting writer and a fine photographer. *The Circle of the Seasons* is the day by day record of his observations and his thoughts throughout a single year, mostly spent at his home on Long Island. It may be a revelation to many to find how many different items of interest may be noted by an observant person in such a limited area.

The diversity of Teale's interests may be shown by quoting a few of his paragraph captions for the month of February, a time of year which many people think rather barren and uninteresting. These are: Return of the Starlings; Ring around the Moon; Skunk Cabbage; Song of the Nuthatch; Frozen Life; A Myrtle Warbler drinks Maple Sap; Scattered Seeds; How Long is a Bird's Memory?; Winter Buds; The Bird of Spring; Cloud Feathers; A Plundered Cocoon; Redwings in the Snow. A wide variety showing a catholic taste and an inquiring mind!

Edwin Way Teale's philosophy may be expressed by copying two quotations found in this book. He cites Gilbert White as saying, "All nature is so full that that district produces the greatest variety which is the most examined," and he gives another extract from the writings of his friend William T. Davis, "There is no need of a faraway fairyland, for the earth is a mystery before us. The cowpaths lead to mysterious fields." Mr. Teale has followed those cowpaths and examined his district to the great benefit of all who read this delightfully written and finely illustrated volume.

JOHN B. MAY

## Book Reviews

AN ALBUM OF SOUTHERN BIRDS. Photographs by Samuel A. Grimes. Text by Alexander Sprunt, Jr. University of Texas Press. 1953. 104 pages. \$8.75.

It has long been the hope of his many friends that some of Samuel Grimes's thousands of fine photographs of birds might be put into book form for others to enjoy. This beautifully bound, well composed volume, has more than one hundred of Mr. Grimes's finest photographs, four in color and the remainder in monochrome.

Long a close friend and field companion, Alexander Sprunt is well equipped to provide, not only readable text for Sam Grimes's pictures, but also an excellent biographical sketch of his friend, and he includes some of his noteworthy exploits and experiences in bird photography. Sam's uncanny ability to locate nests, backed by his real knowledge of birds, his sense of the artistic and concern in showing the birds in their most natural poses, as well as his extreme patience and ingenuity has resulted in photographs which have been recognized and accepted by many publications throughout the world. Sam is also a pioneer in color photography and through the years has used the latest appliances available in this field.

Among the one hundred fine pictures, one of his most famous is that of the Snowy Egret with its nuptial plumes. Those of the American Bittern and the Barred Owl were on display in an exhibit in the old New England Museum of Natural History in the early 1940's. Several others have appeared in our *Bulletin* from time to time, through the courtesy of Mr. Grimes.

The writer has been privileged many times to be a field companion of both Sam Grimes and Alex Sprunt, and some of these photographs bring back memorable occasions. We recognize the cypress tree deep in a north Florida swamp which the Black Vulture is just leaving, because, within it, Sam called my attention to the Vulture's nest, which was decorated with bits of china and glass, picked up one wonders where. In the case of the Red-cockaded Woodpecker, we gave slight help to the setting up of a pole so that Sam could climb to a height, just opposite the nest, and secure this excellent photograph. Photographs of Acadian Flycatcher, Hooded Warbler, and Swainson's Warbler recall days spent in the hardwood swamp where these birds were nesting and where all three species were shown me for the first time in Florida.

Like our friend Alexander Sprunt, I am delighted that Sam Grimes was the first to find and photograph the nest and young

of the Cattle Egret, a new nesting bird for North America and illustrated in this volume.

A fine team, Grimes and Sprunt, and a book we can recommend most highly as one to cherish and enjoy through the years and then to pass on to your children and grandchildren.

C. RUSSELL MASON

ROUND RIVER. From the Journals of Aldo Leopold. Edited by Luna B. Leopold. Illustrated by Charles W. Schwartz. Oxford University Press, New York 1953. 173 pages. \$3.00.

To those who enjoyed *A Sand County Almanac*, by Aldo Leopold, the chance to peek into the journals of this author came as a pleasant and unexpected surprise.

The first part of *Round River* deals with early years in the development of Aldo Leopold. At that time he apparently differed little from many other sportsmen. His field ethics were high, as was his ability to "read" a landscape. But the impression remains with this reviewer that the rich philosophy which later set Aldo Leopold apart grew gradually and came of age at a period later than that covered by the edited excerpts from his Journals, which include hunting and fishing trips taken usually with members of his family.

There are some delightful bits of narrative in this book which are on a par with the best in *Sand County Almanac*. There is the short chapter entitled "Country"; there is the one on "Natural History," which contains food for thought for those of us interested in an outdoors worth having for ourselves and for those who will follow us. The Massachusetts Audubon Society has some answers to Leopold's question, What is our educational system doing to encourage personal amateur scholarship in the natural-history field? We can answer for Massachusetts that much is being done. We can also agree that "The amateur can, if he has imagination and persistence, select and solve actual scientific natural-history problems as virgin as the stratosphere."

It seems pretty pertinent at this time, as more and more townships in Massachusetts consider closing their borders to hunting, that Leopold considered this problem in the much less heavily settled Middle West. He says: "I think there is no solution for this posted-land problem except in private leases." When everybody owns the wildlife resource, it seems that nobody looks after it particularly well.

The chapter on "Conservation" has much of interest, reflecting the many years of field experience of an outdoorsman with

### Reviews, cont.

much more than the customary ability to understand the causes and effects that created the easily observed surface actions and reactions. Leopold's sympathetic understanding of the problems of conservation was outstanding. As you go down the trails that wander through this book, you cannot but mourn that the Conservation movement prematurely lost a leader at a time when it needed him most. *Round River* belongs on your bookshelf beside *A Sand County Almanac*.

EDWIN A. MASON

**THE MACMILLAN WILD FLOWER BOOK:** Descriptive Text by Clarence J. Hylander; Illustrations by Edith Farrington Johnston. The Macmillan Company, New York. 1954. xvi, 480 pages. \$15.00.

This is another truly fine wild flower book, beautifully illustrated, and a credit to all concerned with its production. It covers some five hundred plants, natives of North America or well naturalized. There are 232 full color plates illustrating over four hundred of the plants treated, and Mr. Hylander has supplied good though brief descriptions of each of the five hundred species. The choice of plants shown is excellent, though it is inevitable that when one looks for one's special favorites some are bound to be missing from a volume of this type (and price range). Of the great Composite family there are eighty-six examples described, and sixty-nine of these are illustrated; of the Heath family, thirty-one are described and twenty-five illustrated; the Orchid family portrays nineteen of the twenty-five treated. The text includes in most cases a brief description of the flower and its manner of growth and its habitat, its blossoming season and its range.

The introduction by Mr. Hylander, after some general remarks about plants and their identification, has sections on Habit of Growth, Leaf Form and Arrangement, Flower Structure and Type of Inflorescence, the Nature of the Fruit, and the Nature of the Habitat, accompanied by four drawings illustrating types of leaves and flowers. The volume ends with a well-planned "Guide to the Flower Families Described in This Book," which should be a great help to many searchers for our colorful wild flowers.

JOHN B. MAY

**CURIOUS CREATURES.** Written and illustrated by Erna Pinner. Philosophical Library, New York. 1953. 256 pages. \$4.75.

We are all familiar in our daily lives with many curious creatures, such as the nuthatch with its habit of coming head-first down a tree, the hermit crab with its

adopted moon snail home, and the hummingbird with its backward flight. Here we have the stories of these and other common animals, and we learn additional facts about them that we may not have known.

Also reported are the fascinating stories of many species new to us, with the amazing facts of their strange lives. We learn that the ladybird beetle is so named because it was "in the distant past dedicated to 'Our Lady the Blessed Virgin.'" We read of the only marine lizard in the world, of bird-eating spiders, of sloths that were once kept in captivity by early men, and of the African catfish that swims upside down. In a discussion of goose barnacles we note that John Gerard, in 1597, "believed that (barnacle) geese were bred from these organisms . . . He went so far as to illustrate his conviction with a drawing of geese hatching from a tree with growing barnacles, whence they flew straight down to the sea."

To be confronted with such an array of strange animals might well make us wonder what they look like. Our wonder is quickly satisfied, since we find in the case of almost every species an accompanying illustration clearly depicting the animal in question. The illustrations are most attractively done and add greatly to the appeal of the book.

Common or colloquial names are frequently confusing, and in many of the more popular works on animals we may well not know what particular animal is under consideration. Here this is not the case, the author having in each instance given the scientific binomial.

Anyone with an interest in the world about him will find in this volume much valuable information presented in an entertaining but at the same time accurate manner. After finishing this book we will agree even more with Walt Whitman, who is quoted at the outset as having said, "Prais'd be the fathomless universe For life and joy and for objects and knowledge curious."

HARRY LEVI

**BIRDS OF WASHINGTON STATE.** By Stanley G. Jewett. Walter P. Taylor, Wm. T. Shaw, and John W. Aldrich. University of Washington Press, Seattle. 1953. 768 pages. \$8.00.

This is the first comprehensive study of the Birds of Washington since a book of the same title was published by Dawson and Bowles in 1909. Changes in the countryside of that region, as well as more intensive studies made of the birds found there, make most desirable a book on this subject.

### Reviews, cont.

The writing was started in 1917 by Taylor and Shaw, who were later called to other areas. Thereupon Stanley Jewett, a co-author with Ira Gabrielson in the *Birds of Oregon*, carried on the work and secured the co-operation of John Aldrich, of the Fish and Wildlife Service.

The information supplied is based largely on personal investigation by the writers and by permanent or temporary personnel of the Fish and Wildlife Service and co-operating institutions. Published information has also been freely drawn upon.

A systematic classification which uses the scientific and common names selected for the forthcoming revised A.O.U. *Check-List* indicates the covering of more than 450 birds of that area.

Washington, with its varied topography (eight major divisions) and climate provides an extremely rich bird and plant life, with elevations stretching from sea level to Mt. Rainier (14,408 ft), the Pacific Ocean on the western border, several rivers carrying the waters from the mountain streams into the sea, rain forest and desert with consequent extremes of temperature and rainfall and sunshine, all bound to result in a most interesting avifauna. Descriptions of the various species and sub-species cover status, description, and distribution, as well as some of the habits, and special comments.

There are twelve color plates, eleven by Peterson and one by Kalmbach, 99 half tones, and 51 distribution maps. There is also a colored life zone map which is of great value.

A section is devoted to brief descriptions of geographical locations referred to in the text, and there is an extensive bibliography, which is to be expected in a book of this character. A comprehensive review is given of the work of earlier ornithologists in the State, and comments made on the effect of reclamation, effect of bird life on the forests, and the conservation of birds in general, including the fish eaters.

The authors, who are also much interested in conservation education, recommend the necessity for nature study in the schools, teaching the love of the out-of-doors to children, as fundamental to the conservation of natural resources. They also recommend proper restrictions to preserve declining species of game birds and a non-political setup for fish and game administration.

The book is printed on good paper, is well bound, and should be in demand by anyone who is building up a library to include the birds of various parts of the country.

C. RUSSELL MASON

**REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS.** A guide to familiar American species. By Herbert S. Zim and Hobart M. Smith. Illustrated by James Gordon Irving. Simon and Schuster, New York. 1953. 157 pages. Paper bound. \$1.00.

Dr. Zim has written in this volume his sixth in a series of Golden Nature Guides and continues here the tradition he has already set for excellence in popular and fascinating natural history writing. Also, as in previous volumes, we have once again fine illustrations.

An adequate though brief introduction brings us many interesting and valuable facts about such diversified subjects as the value of amphibians and reptiles, how to collect and keep them either for study or as pets, and treatment of snake bites. Informative groupings of amphibians and reptiles are shown in end papers.

Within each group the arrangement is in logical order with clearly presented distinguishing characteristics of species superficially resembling each other, such as Leopard and Pickerel Frogs.

Almost any layman in the field of natural history has had the frustrating experience of attempting to find the answers to such simple questions as how to tell a male from a female turtle or salamander or as to what is the origin of the objectionable fluid given off by a captured toad. Here we have the answers to these and many other elementary questions — but the type of question to which it is so often difficult to find the answer.

In a recent book on natural history which received rather widespread circulation there appeared the story of the so-called Chicken Snake, with an illustration showing the snake in the presumably typical act of eating a baby chick — to be followed in the body of the article by the statement that only an occasional chick is taken. Nevertheless, many readers may still be left with the impression that the Chicken Snake frequently eats poultry. As a contrast to such careless editing, we find this snake here referred to as the Yellow Rat Snake (Striped Chicken Snake), with the accompanying statement that "Members of this group have been known by diverse common names which are often misleading. Names used here are truer to the snakes." Such consistent accuracy and attention to detail is maintained throughout.

This volume is highly recommended. At a higher price it would still be a good purchase; at the price for which it sells, it is a real bargain.

HARRY LEVI



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### Field Notes

The staff at Audubon House tries to keep posted as to all unusual bird reports and to answer all queries, but sometimes we are stumped by the questions. As an example of the posers, another staff member recently asked us bluntly, "Who wrote this post card?" On the card was written, "1-15-'54. Reporting 5 male, 1 female Evening Grosbeaks today." No signature, no locality aside from a Cambridge postmark. Can anyone else answer this query? That is one field note which did not get printed. An editor's life is an unhappy one, for we cannot publish all the worthwhile notes which come to us, because of limitations of space, duplication, or various other reasons. And then, from people who never send us notes, we receive complaints that we do not publish enough notes! If you do not send us field notes, we cannot make them up out of whole cloth. *Co-operate!*

Edward Marsh writes us that on February 1 the birches, swamp maples, and willows in Dedham were in high color, and had been for two or three weeks. Such signs point to an early spring, but early developing fruit buds may mean a failure of the peach and similar crops.

Mrs. Guy B. Byam, of Osterville, writes us that she has been feeding about 20 MEADOWLARKS, 40 MOURNING DOVES, 12 BOB-WHITES, 6-8 CHICKADEES, 6 GOLDFINCHES, several BLUE-BIRDS, several JUNCOS, a couple of PHEASANTS, and one FOX SPARROW. On January 11 her first PURPLE FINCH of the season arrived.

Ludlow Griscom took advantage of the stormy weather on January 10 to hasten to Cape Ann in the hope of finding some interesting sea birds or northern birds blown in by the storm, but instead of the anticipated rarities he found only the MOCKINGBIRD, BROWN THRASHER, YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT, and BALTIMORE ORIOLE to enliven the day.

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### Field Notes

Bob Wood reports 4 PURPLE SAND-PIPERS at Manomet, Dec. 13; at Portsmouth, R. I., Dec. 20, he saw 6 FLICKERS, 4 FIELD SPARROWS, 5 SNOW BUNTINGS, and watched a DUCK HAWK feeding on a pigeon; at Tiverton, R. I., Dec. 20, a SNOW GOOSE flying over; at Taunton, Mass., Jan. 1, the fourth bird of his new year's list was a DICKCISSEL.

An interesting list of birds appearing at her feeder in January was sent us by Mrs. Pauline Derick, of Dennis Port. Included in the list was a RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH, Robins, Towhees, and Fox Sparrows. On Jan. 14 a GREAT HORNED OWL was flying about and roosting in the trees around her house in midafternoon.

Mrs. Lionel Sheppard, Sr., of Ipswich, reports seeing, between Jan. 15 and 20, PHOEBE, RED-WING, NORTHERN SHRIKE, TOWHEE, LONG-EARED and SHORT-EARED OWLS.

Three WHITE-CROWNED SPARROWS were feeding around the homes of Miss Ruth Walker and Mrs. Sidney Webber in Orleans on Jan. 13. A BALTIMORE ORIOLE had been seen there about a week before.

A BROWN THRASHER has been seen at the feeder of Mrs. David Crispen in Westwood, coming for suet from Jan. 10 to 14. Another straggler at her feeder was a FOX SPARROW, Jan. 11 to 13.

Mrs. John Hessian, of Amesbury, tells us that a large flock of MYRTLE WARBLERS is spending the winter there, feeding on acres of bayberries; one warbler will eat as many as 15 bayberries at one sitting. She adds that 2 GREAT BLUE HERONS were at Amesbury until Dec. 25, and that a SNOWY OWL was seen on Jan. 20.

Mrs. Mona Worden, of Edgartown, writes that on Dec. 29, while riding her bicycle in the centre of that town and wheeling to the bridge between Edgartown and Oak Bluffs, she saw 19 species of birds, including 8 WESTERN PALM WARBLERS, many MEADOWLARKS, and a BALTIMORE ORIOLE.

Mrs. Cecil Coleman, of Osterville, reports that on Jan. 11 a flock of 33 MOURNING DOVES came in to feed, the first time she has seen so many together. Shortly after the Doves left, two coveys of BOBWHITES, coming from opposite directions, arrived, totaling 25 birds.

Gordon W. Johnson, of Dartmouth, (Mass.), reports on recent observations at his home not far from Horseneck Beach in southern Bristol County. A YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT stayed with him all of November, and its place was taken by a

WESTERN PALM WARBLER. During the snowstorm of Jan. 13 his feeders supplied over 30 WHITE-THROATED SPARROWS, 5 SONG SPARROWS, 4 SAVANNAH SPARROWS, 2 FOX SPARROWS, 2 TOWHEES, 12 COWBIRDS, and various other birds. A LINCOLN'S SPARROW and two more Fox Sparrows appeared a little later. In the neighboring woods are a CAROLINA WREN, a WINTER WREN, and a HERMIT THRUSH. Also MYRTLE WARBLERS and ROBINS are found in abundance nearby, in the burnt-over district back of Horseneck Beach.

Mrs. Mason A. Foley, of Hingham, writes that on Jan. 31 a photograph was taken of 3 BLUEBIRDS on the snow in her yard. She also gave us one of our few reports of REDPOLLS, 20 in her yard on a large birch tree, Dec. 17.

A dead AMERICAN BITTERN was picked up on the road to Lakeville, Jan. 19, by Lester R. Spaulding; it had been only recently killed.

Ernest Drew and family saw a GADWALL at the north end of Plum Island on the Merrimack River, Jan. 24.

A female SHOVELLER is still present in the Fenway and may be seen in back of the Fine Arts Museum. A drake CANVASBACK has also been seen there, during the latter part of January, and it is occasionally seen farther up the Muddy River in the Longwood Towers section.

A male BARROW'S GOLDEN-EYE was observed at Squantum, Jan. 19, by Peter Willmann.

Ted Raymond, of the Milton Academy Bird Club, reports that 2 RUDDY DUCKS were seen at Ponkapoag Pond in Canton, Jan. 13. They seemed to be frozen in, but when he got near and clapped his hands they managed to free themselves, and a little later, when he checked again, they could not be found.

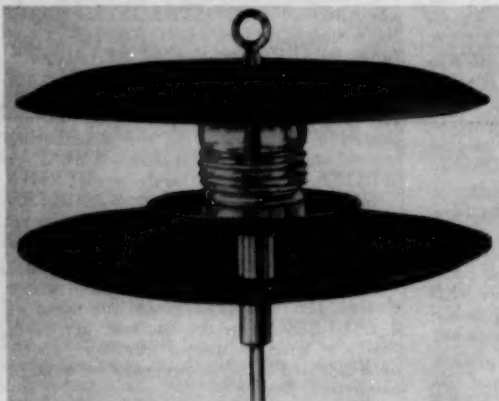
Dr. and Mrs. John B. May observed for some time a fine adult male MARSH HAWK quartering a broad field at South Duxbury, Feb. 6.

A KING RAIL was crossing the Neponset River on the morning of Dec. 17 or 18, the first day that the river was frozen over, according to Arthur R. Sharp, Jr.

A late BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER was noted at Lynn Beach on Feb. 7 by Mrs. Robert Arnold.

Mrs. John Brown, of Chatham, reports seeing a WOODCOCK there, Jan. 28.

Ronald Allen saw a WILSON'S SNIPES in Salem, Jan. 26, and on the 28th he and Miss Dorothy Snyder saw it again in the same place.

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### Field Notes

Between 35 and 40 MOURNING DOVES could be seen all through December on the golf course at Hingham, according to Wayne Hanley, whose property adjoins the course. After the snowstorms on Jan. 9 and 11, the flock split up, and on the 11th he saw one in his shed, one under the steps, and another in shrubbery. One seemed very weak and allowed Mr. Hanley to pick it up. He has been feeding it and will continue until it is strong enough to be released again.

Mrs. Carl Lund, of Orleans, writes us that on Feb. 3 she was called upon to identify a bird which had been picked up dead on the doorstep of Mrs. Edward Horton's home at Rock Harbor. It was a BARN OWL, in perfect condition but very thin, having apparently starved. Two hours later Dr. Edmund Burke, who also lives in Rock Harbor, a short distance from Mrs. Horton, asked Mrs. Lund to identify another Barn Owl which he had also picked up dead about five days previously. They proved to be of opposite sexes, and to have succumbed to starvation. Why? Are there no rats on Cape Cod?

A GREAT HORNED OWL was seen by Mrs. Martha S. Chubbock, of Marshfield, Jan. 2, sitting on a clothes post in her back yard and providing an excellent view.

On January 24, while walking on Deer Island in Boston Harbor, Miss Marilyn Drew saw a SNOWY OWL perched on top of a small shed. As she approached it the owl flew across the harbor toward Long Island, but another one flew up from the ground and landed on a telephone pole on the Fort Dawes side of Deer Island. It sat on the pole for at least three hours and was still there when she last saw it.

A BROWN-CAPPED CHICKADEE visited the feeder of Mrs. Carl Smelzer in Egypt (Scituate), Jan. 28, and was seen several times.

Mrs. Howard A. Mayo, of Bolton, writes that an albino CHICKADEE has been coming to her feeder every day since early January. It has a few blackish feathers on the back of the neck, shoulders, on each wing, and in the tail, but the general effect is of a very white bird. Its bill, feet, and legs are also colorless.

Mrs. Eleanor Furness, of Cambridge, reports a RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH at her feeder on Jan. 14.

Mrs. Alice Moberg tells us that she spreads peanut butter on the bark of a tree for the BROWN CREEPERS and that they are very fond of it. Creepers seldom come to ordinary bird feeders.

Mrs. Emery Munyon, of Grafton, reports two CAROLINA WRENS from Jan. 5 onward.

Dr. David Coffin, of Newton, informs us that a MOCKINGBIRD was around his home for about a month but was last seen on Jan. 24. It fed mainly on sumac berries but also likes small hips of a wild rose.

On Jan. 23 Francis S. Dane, of Lexington, wrote that a BROWN THRASHER appeared in his garden on Dec. 17 and has been entertaining them ever since. It had some difficulty feeding on the suet fastened to a tree, but after watching the woodpeckers for a day or two it found that it could do as they did. Mr. Dane says that now it can deliver a blow quite worthy of any Hairy Woodpecker or Flicker.

Four bright male ROBINS, nicely plumped out by the low temperature, visited the home of Dr. May in Cohasset, Jan. 28. The only food they were seen to take was some fruits of the Jack-in-the-pulpit, though they probably found cedar berries close by, the flowering dogwoods were completely stripped long ago. Two Robins were seen at the home of Ralph Woodward in Weston, Jan. 14; they did not come to the feeders but were sitting high up in an oak. From South Londonderry, Vermont, with the temperature four degrees below zero, Dec. 17, Mrs. James R. Downs observed a single wintering Robin, and from Jackson, N. H., Richard T. May reports a sizable flock through January.

HERMIT THRUSHES are reported by Mrs. Carl Smelzer, of Egypt, Jan. 17, 1; L. L. Sprague, North Andover, Jan. 29-30, 1; Dr. Philip Hallowell, Milton, 2 from Dec. 29 to Jan. 28, feeding on ivy berries around the house.

Miss Wilma Schields, of North Scituate, writes that 4 BLUEBIRDS were in her yard, Jan. 31.

A RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET was observed in Weston, Jan. 20, by Mr. and Mrs. Levi Jennings.

A flock of 25 or more CEDAR WAXWINGS feasted on the fruit of honeysuckle vines at the home of Miss Florence M. Cook in Framingham, Jan. 29; the temperature a few hours earlier was only four above zero.

Mrs. James R. Downs, of South Londonderry, Vt., reports a NORTHERN SHRIKE on Dec. 19 and another of the same bird on Dec. 30.

Henry Brooks, of Boxboro, tells us that a WESTERN PALM WARBLER was around his feeders all through the month of January. Though he has seen it on and under the feeder, it never seems to eat any of the suet or the crackers smeared with peanut butter.

The YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT at Mrs. Carl Lund's in Orleans was still there on Jan. 13, feeding on bananas and pokeberries.

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### Field Notes

Eight MEADOWLARKS were feeding together on food put out for Pheasants in Weston, Jan. 18, at the home of Mrs. R. Eldredge, who says two were at the same place in January of last year.

Five RED-WINGS were at the window feeder at the home of Ronald Thatcher in Middleboro, Jan. 23, eating a mixture of various kinds of grease and flour which seems to be very popular with the birds. Mr. Thatcher says the Red-wing was the 32nd species to visit his feeders.

Mrs. Cecil Coleman, of Osterville, reports that a banded female BALTIMORE ORIOLE came to her window feeder, Jan. 6, and was still coming Jan. 14; it was seen feeding on a hard doughnut. Mrs. William Telford, of Roslindale, writes that a Baltimore Oriole stayed at her feeder from Dec. 31 to Jan. 12.

Fifteen COWBIRDS are feeding at the farm of Ralph Washburn in West Hanover.

An immature male WESTERN Tanager was seen at the feeder of Miss Florence Homer in Bucksport, Maine, from Jan. 1 to 13. On the latter date it was found dead near the feeder. It had been first reported in Bucksport in November of last year.

The WESTERN Tanager in West Gloucester which so many of our members have enjoyed watching was first observed by Mrs. Carl Viator in her yard on Dec. 13. It was not recorded again until Jan. 13, when she noticed it eating suet from a feeder, and it has been seen daily to the date of this writing. It has also been seen at the feeder of Mrs. Hodgdon, across the street from Mrs. Viator. This bird has been most accommodating to visitors, and it has been studied by our January field trip members and by groups from the Connecticut Valley, Rhode Island, New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania. Massachusetts is becoming famous as a winter resort!

A female CARDINAL appeared at the feeder of Richard M. Marble in Woodstock, Vt., Jan. 7, and was seen daily until the date of our report, Jan. 16. Mr. Marble has kept records for thirty years or more (see footnote, page 15, January *bulletin*), and he says this is the first Cardinal to be recorded in that vicinity.

A male CARDINAL was reported by Mr. and Mrs. Walter Cole, of Waltham, Jan. 9, and on Jan. 12 Miss Alice Tait, of Wakefield, reported a female Cardinal which visited several feeders in that town. Other Cardinals were noted by Mrs. Charles Peterson, of Newtonville, Jan. 17-18; on Jan. 2 Mrs. Arthur Phelps, of Grafton, found one eating suet on the ground, and

on Jan. 11 Miss Grace Croff and Miss Ingeborg Laurence saw the same bird in their garden eating barberries.

A male ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK visited the feeder of Mrs. Frederick Anderson in Grafton, Jan. 11, eating sunflower seeds, and visiting the feeder again and again.

Mrs. Carleton F. Whitely, of South Weymouth, has been entertaining a male DICKCISSEL at her feeder since the first week in January.

Three PINE SISKINS visited the feeder of Mrs. Sidney Grover in Newburyport, Feb. 1, but only stayed a short time.

From South Londonderry, Vt., Mrs. John R. Downs reports 20-30 PINE SISKINS daily; 3 male WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILLS, Dec. 11; 1-2 EVENING GROSBEAKS, Dec. 25 on; all helping to brighten the cold winter days in the ski country.

RED-EYED TOWHEES have been reported from Lexington, Jan. 19, by Mrs. Tyler C. Porter; from Hingham, Jan. 19, by Mrs. George W. Smith; from Manomet, Jan. 18, by Mrs. A. G. Drew.

Mrs. Gladys Nelson writes that 4 TREE SPARROWS came to her feeder in East Weymouth, Jan. 16, the first she has had there since 1940.

Miss Rosamond S. Bigelow reports a SONG SPARROW in full song on Jan. 4 at West Barnstable. On Jan. 18, when the temperature was below zero, Mrs. H. E. Warren, of Lincoln, heard a WHITE-THROATED SPARROW give its full song.

Mrs. David J. Burns, of Montpelier, Vt., entertained a female LAPLAND LONGSPUR at her feeder, Jan. 9.

For those of our readers who are fortunate enough to feed SNOW BUNTINGS, T. S. Fillebrown, of Woodstock, Vt., writes that while they will eat almost any kind of small seeds he has found that they seem to prefer Hungarian millet to other grains.

Edward Marsh, of Wareham, reports seeing OTTERS on several occasions recently, apparently after trout.

Mrs. John Mayo, of Wellesley, reports seeing a very white SKUNK wandering about her home grounds on Jan. 19.

Davis Crompton includes in his report of mammals seen recently in Massachusetts a HARBOR PORPOISE off Rockport, Jan. 24, and about 25 HARBOR SEALS at Gull Island near Penikese, Jan. 19.

We have word from Corinne and Lewis Babbitt, of Petersham, that over the years they have seen there several white-phased, winter-coated WEASELS, but have not identified them specifically.

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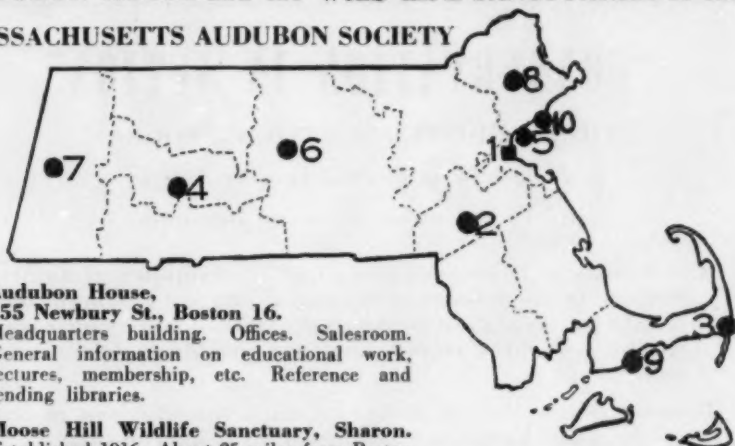
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- 1. Audubon House, 155 Newbury St., Boston 16.**  
Headquarters building. Offices. Salesroom. General information on educational work, lectures, membership, etc. Reference and lending libraries.
- 2. Moose Hill Wildlife Sanctuary, Sharon.**  
Established 1916. About 25 miles from Boston near Providence Pike. 250 acres mixed woodland. Small pond. Museum. Nature Trails. Albert W. Bussewitz, Resident Director.
- 3. Tern Island Wildlife Sanctuary, Chatham.**  
Established 1936. 10 acres sand and beach grass. Large colony of nesting terns. Management, O. L. Austin Ornithological Research Station, North Eastham.
- 4. Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary, Northampton.**  
Established 1944. 300 acres meadow, marsh, and woodland. Nature Trails. Memorial and experimental plantings. Studio workshop. Edwin A. Mason, Resident Director.
- 5. Nahant Thicket Wildlife Sanctuary, Nahant.**  
Established 1948. 4 acres. On Atlantic Flyway. Hordes of migrating land birds in spring and fall. Trails.
- 6. Cook's Canyon Wildlife Sanctuary, Barre.**  
Established 1948. 35 acres. Coniferous plantation. Small pond. Rocky gorge. Interesting trails. Site of Natural Science Workshop for leaders and resident and day camps for boys and girls. David R. Miner, Resident Director.
- 7. Pleasant Valley Wildlife Sanctuary, Lenox.**  
A "Bird and Wild Flower" Sanctuary since 1929. A square mile of typical Berkshire woodland and stream valley. Nature Trails. Trailside Museum. Beaver pond. Barn Tearoom in summer. Alvah W. Sanborn, Resident Director.
- 8. Ipswich River Wildlife Sanctuary, Topsfield, Wenham and Hamilton.**  
Established 1951. 2000 acres. On Ipswich River. Extensive marshland with islands. Great variety introduced trees and shrubs. Elmer P. Foye, Resident Director.
- 9. Sampson's Island Wildlife Sanctuary, Cotuit.**  
Established 1953. 16 acres sand and beach grass, nesting place of terns.
- 10. Marblehead Neck Wildlife Sanctuary, Marblehead.**  
Established 1953. About 15 acres mixed hardwoods and maple-alder swamp, especially interesting during migrations.

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*Further information about any of the above sanctuaries may be obtained from  
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